# TOKYO

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COMPLETE EDITION

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# TOKYO GHOST

## COMPLETE EDITION

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The Isles of Los Angeles, 2089.

A SONG ABOUT A HAPPY ELEPHANT ECHOES THROUGH A FRESH SMEAR OF GREY MIST ON THE CANALS.

MEAT HERDERS PLAYING **SOFT** MUSIC TO LURE **CURIOUS** CHILDREN.

I **LOVED** THIS SONG AS A KID.

YOU REMEMBER, TEDDY?

=HUFF=

BACK WHEN THESE LOW CANALS USED TO BE OUR SANCTUARY.

WE USED TO SWIM **ALL DAY.**

NOW THE WATER'S SO TOXIC IT'D **MELT** YOUR SKIN.

EVEN IF IT WEREN'T-- NO ONE HAS FUN LIKE THAT ANYMORE.

TOO BUSY AVOIDING REALITY, ALL TUCKED AWAY INSIDE ELECTRONIC OPIUM DENS.

LEAVING ME HERE--

--THE ONLY TECH-FREE OBSERVER TO THIS ILLUSTRIOUS GROUP APATHY.

OUTTA MY WAY, NUTBAG!

GHA-!

SLOP

BUT I HAVE **ONE THING** LEFT.

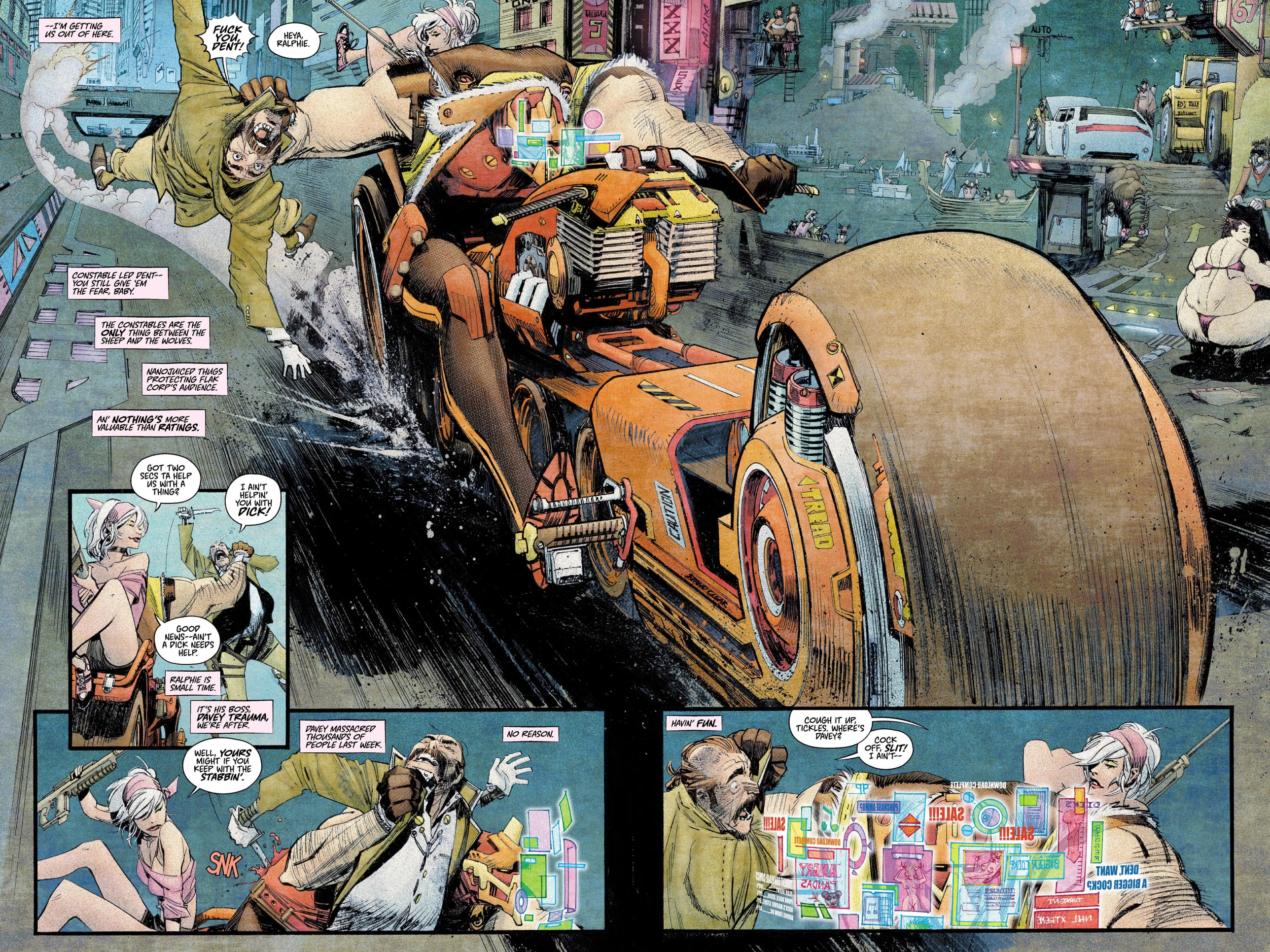
=HUFF=

ONE BIG, **DUMB** DREAM.

THE THING THAT'S KEPT ME **ALIVE.**

AND TODAY IT COMES **TRUE.**

TODAY, AFTER THIS **ONE** LAST JOB--


--I'M GETTING US OUT OF HERE.
FUCK YOU, DENT!
HEYA, RALPHIE.
CONSTABLE LED DENT-- YOU STILL GIVE 'EM THE FEAR, BABY.
THE CONSTABLES ARE THE ONLY THING BETWEEN THE SHEEP AND THE WOLVES.
NANOJUICED THUGS PROTECTING FLAK CORP'S AUDIENCE.
AN' NOTHING'S MORE VALUABLE THAN RATINGS.
GOT TWO SECS TA HELP US WITH A THING?
I AIN'T HELPIN' YOU WITH DICK!
GOOD NEWS--AIN'T A DICK NEEDS HELP.
RALPHIE IS SMALL TIME.
IT'S HIS BOSS, DAVEY TRAUMA, WE'RE AFTER.
WELL, YOURS MIGHT IF YOU KEEP WITH THE STABBIN'.
DAVEY MASSACRED THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE LAST WEEK.
NO REASON.
SNK
HAVIN' FUN.
COUGH IT UP, TICKLES. WHERE'S DAVEY?
COCK OFF, SLIT! I AIN'T--
SALE!!!
SALE!!!
SALE!!!
DENT, WANT A BIGGER COCK?

YERAGHHH=!

SHHRRHSSDD

LED'S NET-BLANK, ADDICTED, TOTALLY UNAWARE OF WHAT HE'S DOIN', SUGARPOPS.

BUT MUSTACHE MEN GIVIN' HIS GAL THE **UGLY** TALK DURING HIS FAVORITE SHOWS **WILL** GET YOU HIS ATTENTION.

FUCURK YURHH-- BZZZT--

IS THIS THE **BEST** I CAN EXPECT FROM THE **INFAMOUS** LED DENT AN' DEBBIE DECAY?

TORTURING ONE OF MY **GOONS?**

FUCKING LAME.

DAVEY?!

YOU KNOW I COULD **POSSESS** YER BOY-TOY LED **WHENEVER** I WANT.

BUT I **AIN'T** NO NOOB, I DON'T USE **CHEAT CODES.**

THE ISLES OF LOS ANGELS IS THE **BEST** LEVEL I'VE PLAYED IN THE GAME OF LIFE!

I'M GOING **EXPERT HARDCORE** ALL THE WAY TO THE **BIG BOSS!**

SURE AS SHIT AIN'T GONNA BE **PWNED** BY A MID-TIER, GRIM-DARK TECH ADDICT AND HIS **SLUT--**

**NOTHIN'** HURTS LIKE WATCHING THE MAN YOU LOVE **DISAPPEAR.**

LEAVIN' ME **STUCK** OUT HERE IN THE REAL, HOLDIN' HIM TOGETHER.

BUT I DO.

FER YEARS NOW.

GOT MY OWN ISSUES WITH **ABANDONMENT.**

UGH!

DON'T YOU WORRY 'BOUT YOUR MAN, HUN.

SHANTY TOWNE

GARL RHUGNN--!

THROW.

RALPHIE'S GONNA MAKE UP FOR A LIFE O' WRONG-DOING.

FEEDIN' THE POOR'S A **SAINTLY** SORT O' ENDIN'.

BA VROOM!

DAVEY TRAUMA.

A PSYCHOPATHIC NARCISSIST AND MILLENNIAL NOSTALGIST WHO GOT HIS MIND TRAPPED IN THE NET.

AS SOON AS WE GRAB ONE O' HIS GEEKS-- DAVEY SHUTS 'EM DOWN.

THE WORLD'S A VIDEO GAME TO DAVEY. HE CAN CONTROL **ANYONE** WITH A NANOPACK IN 'EM.

MEANIN' **EVERYONE.**

EVERYONE EXCEPT **ME.** STRAIGHT EDGE PERKS.

USED SOME O' MY POP'S OLD-SCHOOL SLEUTHIN' TO BUY US A **LEAD.**

CONSTABLE **GNAW GRISTLE,** STOPPED REPORTING TWO WEEKS BACK, OFF THE GRID.

I'M BETTIN' DAVEY POSSESSED 'IM FOR MUSCLE.

WADDAYA THINK?

HOLLYWOOD

EVERYONE REGULATES THEMSELVES WITH THE NANOTECH. EASY EMOTIONAL FIXES AND PHYSICAL ALTERATIONS.

OPEN 24

NIGHTCOCKS DINER

LED?

LED!

--YO! HE GAVE THEM **ALL** THE ANAL WARTS--

--TONIGHT ON DR. TAINTRASHFINGER--

--TRADE IN **ANY** FAMILY MEMBER--

--ONCE YOUR DOLPHIN'S UNCONSCIOUS NATURE IS FREE TO TAKE ITS--

SAY NO TO ROBOTS

BOOBS

LIVE

CRONCH!

DENT! DO YOU NEED NEW TIRES?

KIND-AQUA! IT'S KINDA LIKE WATER

BUT LED'S **OBSESSION** GOES BEYOND ANYTHING I'VE SEEN.

**TOTAL** SURRENDER.

HEY! YOU LISTENIN' TO ME?

THONG

HRMM?

ROOFIES

EASY WAY OUT
DEATH RACE

SOURCE SAYS GRISTLE'S INSIDE.

DOLLARS TO DOUGHNUTS HE'LL KNOW WHERE WE CAN FIND DAVEY.

EXHAUST-FILLED HUMIDITY LEAVES AN ALKALINE TINGLE IN MY MOUTH.

THE DEATH RACES, **LAST** SPORT PLAYED OUTSIDE THE NET.

ONLY THING EXCITIN' ENOUGH TO GET PEOPLE OFF THEIR COUCHES.

**DEPRESSING.**

I'M MISSIN' YA SOMETHIN' CRAZY TONIGHT, TEDDY.

NEED YOU HERE TO LAUGH AT IT ALL WITH ME.

YOU ALWAYS MADE IT ENDURABLE.

FLAK'S CUTTING OFF YOUR JUICE UNLESS YOU BRING DAVEY IN.

NO MORE **JUICE**, NO MORE **ADRENALINE.**

BUT I **STILL** LOVE LED.

NO MORE **MUSCLES.**

NO MORE **INFINITE WEB.**

YOU MIGHT HAVE TO ACTUALLY **TALK** TO ME.

DON'T JUDGE.

HE'S **ALL** I HAVE LEFT IN THE WORLD.

**STUPID!**

TURN OFF THE GODDAMN FEEDS-- **TIME FOR WORK!**

**EMOTION INDICATOR:**
90% fed up
6% tired
4% unknown
100% in love

KNOK. KNOK!

THE SINGULARITY'S OVER BUT DIGITAL MIND PIRATES ARE STILL SEEKING YOUR BRAIN TO GROW THEIR ARTIFICIAL INTELLECT--

--SEVENTY NEW UNREAD TWAMPS--

THERE'S A **GOOD** MAN INSIDE THERE WHO **NEEDS** ME.

--CAN THE RONDANGO DIDDLERS BEAT CHIP CHANGANGA IN THE BLOOD-BALL FINAL--

--YOU'VE BEEN MENTIONED IN A VID ON METUBE--

FUCK IT.

I'LL GO.

**EMOTION INDICATOR:**
90% fed up
6% tired
4% unknown
100% in love

--NECROPHILIA GROSS HAS UPLOADED NEW GAME SHOWS--

YOU'D **HATE** TO SEE WHAT HE'S BECOME, TEDDY.

SELF-INVOLVED.

APATHETIC.

ADDICTED TO THE POWER.

DISTRACTED FROM THE SEWER AROUND US WITH A CONSTANT STREAM OF BULLSHIT.

HE'S SO FULL OF JUICE, SO MANY TINY GODDAMN NANOBOTS RELEASING SO MANY FUCKIN' CHEMICALS ALTERING EVERY PART OF HIM...

COLD FUSION REPAIRMAN LOOKS MORE LIKE HOT FUSION TO ME. WON-TON JR! =HAHAHAHAHAH=

HEH.

...DOESN'T EVEN RESEMBLE THE BOY I FELL IN LOVE WITH.

CHECK-OUT PILLS, FIVE BUCKS!

$4 SUICIDE PILLS

THIS ISN'T ABOUT LED.

THIS IS ABOUT STOPPING DAVEY AND HIS NERDS FROM ANOTHER SLAUGHTER SPREE.

IMAGES OF THE LAST ONE--CAN'T SHAKE IT.

FREE TURKEY SLAPS

I'LL **SLAP** IT, I'LL **DAP** IT, I'LL TREAT YOU LIKE A **FRIEND!**

BLACK SCIENCE PINBALL

EVERY KILL IS JUST A **STAT.**

AND LIKE A VIDEO GAME, REALITY HAS BECOME WHAT WAS **ALWAYS** INSIDE US.

BUZZSAW THAT KANGLER, FAST FERNANDO!

KILLS HIM!

A THIRST FOR VIOLENCE AND COMPETITION.

ROMANTICIZING MURDER AND WARFARE.

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**EVERYTHING** IS ADVERSARIAL.

--HOLY **FUCK!**

OUTTA MY WAY--

MY CHONIES!

HEY, JIM-JAM. SEEN ANY CONSTABLES TONIGHT?

SURE HAVE.

PRICE?

FLAK'S NEW NANOJUICE REPLICATES **TRUE LOVE.**

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE SOME.

BINGUS! THE MOST IMPORTANT MAN IN THE ROOM.

WHAT'S YOUR POISON, HUN?

GOT ANY SELF-ESTEEM?

El Paraiso

SIX GRAMS.

HE'S IN THE BACK.

STAY OUT OF TROUBLE, DEBBIE.

TROUBLE.

TROUBLE IS ALL THERE IS IN **THIS** PLACE.

THE ROOMS BACK HERE HAVE IT **ALL.**

BODY PIRATING, CLONE INCEST, SNUFF PROSTITUTES, HONG KONG SUICIDE SLOTS, CLOWN TORTURE...

**ANYTHING** FOR A PRICE, TO THE HANDFUL WHO CAN AFFORD IT.

CELEBRITY PROGRAMMERS, FLAK EXECUTIVES, WATER BARONS, CORN COMMODORES, DEATH RACERS ON A FINAL BENDER...

ALL OF 'EM LOOKIN' FOR AN **ARTIFICIAL** THRILL WITH **REAL** FLESH.

BINGUS COMES THROUGH, CONSTABLE GRISTLE SITTING WITH--

OH.

HOLY SHIT--

LED? HE'S HERE.

DAVEY TRAUMA.

I THINK HE SAW ME--

LED, I NEED YOU!

YOU STUPID ASSHOLE-- WAKE UP!

BACK OF THE CLUB--THE NOSTALGIA ROOM.

HE'S GOT HIS WHOLE GANG HERE, LED. I NEED YOU BEFORE--

BEFORE WHAT?

BEFORE I ADD MINOR SIDEKICK DEBBIE DECAY TO MY TROPHIES?

BALLS.

I KNOW HOW YOU BOYS LIKE YOUR FREE WILL, BUT I'M GOING TO BODY PIRATE YOU ANYWAY.

HEE-RAW!

I'LL MAKE IT FAIR, GIVE YOU A FEW SECONDS...

AND...

DEEP DEEP DEEP

DEEP DEEP DEEP

DEEP DEEP DEEP

MURDER BONUS:00

LEVEL 1: KILL DEBBIE DECAY

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR??

GO!

DEBBIE'S A GENUINE, TECH-FREE, SECRET BONUS LEVEL!

3 LIVES LEFT

I READ ALL ABOUT YOU, DEBBIE!

YOUR PSYCH EVALUATION'S A PEACH!

JUST A GOOD COP FOLLOWING THE RULES OF A BAD SYSTEM, RIGHT?

BRAKKABRAKKABRAKKA

LED DENT'S PERSONAL JIMINY CRICKET--

--ALWAYS KEEPS HIM ON THE RIGHT PATH-- OOF!

KHUD

FNG

SNK

TOO LOYAL, TOO TRUSTING--

--CRIPPLED BY AN OVERPOWERING NEED TO CARE FOR OTHERS!

ALL THOSE YEARS NURSING YOUR DISHONORABLY DISCHARGED DAD, THE DUD DETECTIVE!

POOR, DEBBIE DECAY HAD TO WATCH BOTH HER FOLKS WITHER AWAY!

EVERYONE GET DOWN!

GHA--
SNK
SHK
TAKE COVER!
PLK
HUKK--!
SHK
THERAPIST SAYS YOU'RE **CODEPENDENT** WITH A CAPITAL "C," DEBS!
SUPPORTING THE **WEAKNESS** OF OTHERS TO FEEL **NEEDED!**
BUT WHAT'S YOUR ALTERNATIVE, **RIGHT?**
LET BIG LED **DISAPPEAR** LIKE DEAR OL' DAD DID?
**OH!** BUT THE PLOT **THICKENS!**
YOU PROMISED YOURSELF YOU'D **SUICIDE OUT** IF IT EVER GOT THIS **BAD!**
BLAMM BLAMM
BUT YOU'RE **SO** AFRAID OF THE **MONSTER** THEY'D TURN **DERANGED DENT** INTO WITHOUT YOUR **LOVING** CARE!
LIVE
DON'T LOOK.
CAN'T SEE ANOTHER DEAD BODY.
CAN'T STAND IT.
BUT THIS IS IT.
AFTER THIS, WE'RE **DONE.**
ISN'T THAT THE **SADDEST** THING YOU'VE EVER HEARD, LADS?
PLEASE, LED.
HURRY.
WAKIN' UP EVERY DAY JUST TO HELP SOME NET-HEAD WHO DOESN'T EVEN KNOW YOU'RE ALIVE--
WE'RE **SO** CLOSE--

--JUST **ONE** LAST JOB.

WHUD!

UNGHUGH-!

GROOOM

THIS CHIVALROUS SHIT HITS ME RIGHT IN THE **FEELS**, BRO.

BUT DO YOU HAVE **ANY** IDEA WHAT IT TAKES TO CATCH A CONSTABLE WITH THOSE KIND OF STATS?!

DHOOOM

HOW WILL I GET ANOTHER CONSTABLE'S ATTENTION?

WAIT! I KNOW!

?

!

BOING!

MURDER SPREE!

YOO-HOO!

HERE I AM!

TAKE YOUR SHOT--

BZZZZZZZZZ!

--BEFORE SOMETHING **CUTS** YOUR TIME SHORT.

STOLENMOTO

#1

7

OSKAR BLEU

CRASH!

IRRRRRRRRRRRR!

KA-CHIK!

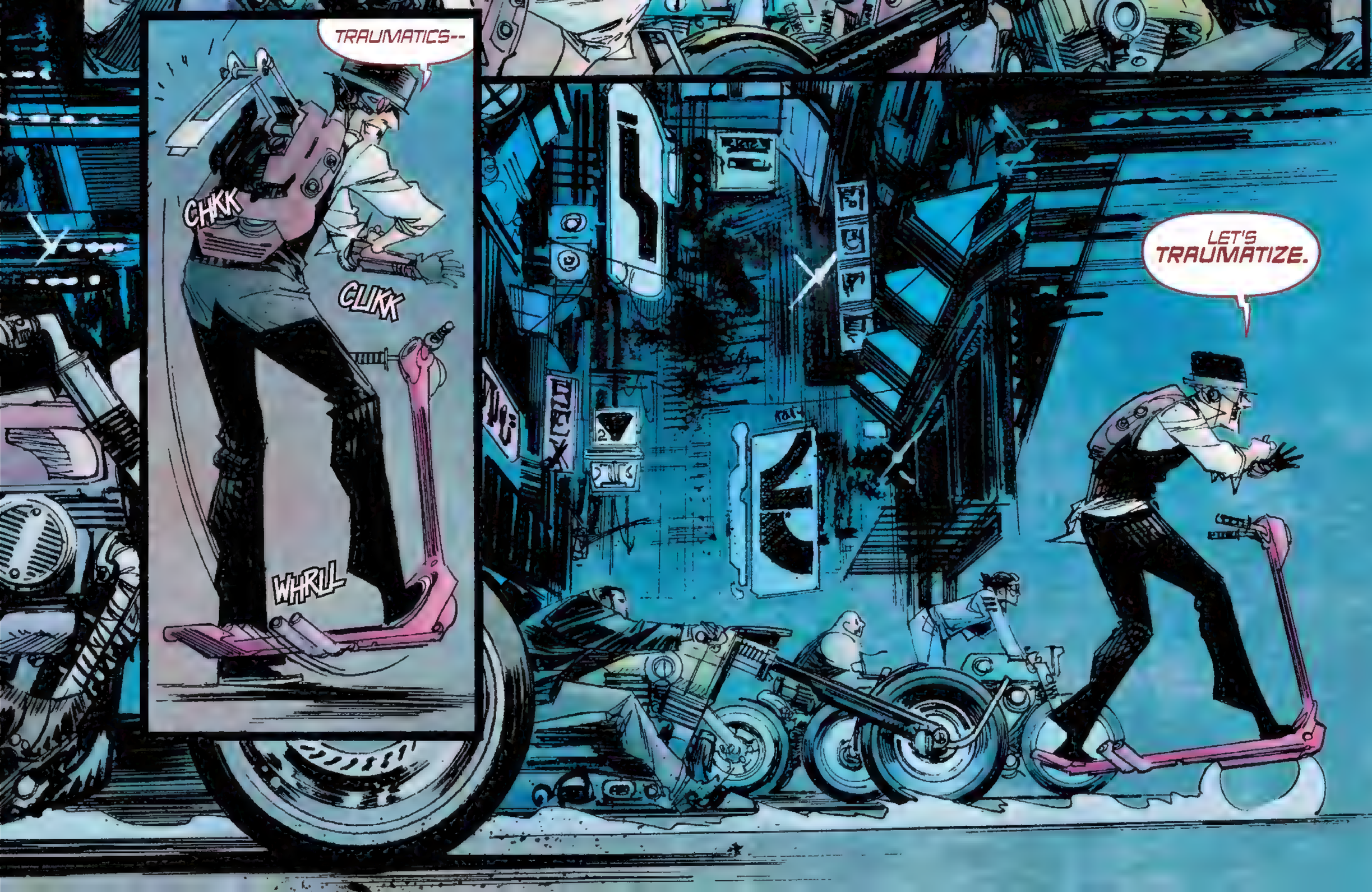
NOW FOR AN **EQUALLY** IMPRESSIVE EXIT--

SHWOOSHH

"--WITH **HELLA** BODY COUNT."

STADIUM
STADIUM
YOLO, BITCHES!
YOU SLAGS SEE THAT SHIT?

THAT WAS KILLER, BOSS!
WELL, THANK YOU, PAULIE Q, YOU CUNTY BOOTLICKER.
WHAT'S THE PLAN?


TRAUMATICS--
CHKK
CLKK
WHRLL
LET'S TRAUMATIZE.

YOU'RE ABOUT TO LIVE THE *DREAM* OF THE *INFANTILIZED!*

TOWER MALL

PARKING

BE YOUR HEROES

3

*FROM ZERO TO HERO, GUARANTEED!*

WITH FLAK'S PATENTED *NANOMORPH,* WE CAN RESHAPE YER *BONES,* YER *MUSCLES,* YER *FACE*--THE WHOLE SHIT 'N' SHEBANG!

TURN YOU INTO THE PERSON YOU *DESERVE* TO BE!

Ask about our children's rooms!

BEFORE AFTE

BEFORE AFTER!

SALE!!!

HOW PLAYING THE CONAN

EXCESS

HOW'D YA LIKE TO FUCK *CAPTAIN POWERZAP* TONIGHT, SWEETHEART?

I COULD TURN THAT *RUNT* YER WITH INTO A *WINGDING SUPERMAN!*

PLAYER

WE CAN FIX THAT ASS OF YOURS TOO! TURN YOU INTO *RO-HO QUEEN OF THE HORDES TALIMANZOO!*

*HEY--* HERE'S A HAPPY CUSTOMER NOW!

WHY, THIS GUY STROLLED IN HERE NOT FIVE MINUTES AGO LOOKING LIKE A WALKING PIECE OF *HUMAN SHIT!*

GAZE UPON HIS NEW MAJESTY!

I'M *COMMANDER ZANE* FROM THE TITANIUM ERA!

WEARING THE COSTUME THAT HE WAS GIVEN BY HIS SWEET LADY BRIDE, *TERRIFIC TANYA!*

*I'M INDESTRUCTIBLE!*

GURKG--

SHLUNK

WEAPONS AND EYELINER

UTILITY BELTS

KSPLOM!

AHOY, ME STUPIDS! GET YER KILLIN' BONERS ON HARD AN' MURDER ME UP SOME MOD PLAYERS!

I THOUGHT YOU SAID WE WEREN'T GOIN' RAMPAGE MODE NO MORE, BOSS.

EVERY DIETER DESERVES A DAY OFF.

DEEP BEEP

FA-LIP!

SO FUCK YOU, ABE LINCLON!

FOUR SCORE AND HOLY BALLS!

BUZZ

SHRLLLINNNDD

BEHOLD--

I AM THE JESUS OF MURDER!

BLAMM BLAMM

POP POP POP

TWOOOM

HOLY SHIT, BOSS! IT'S--

KRUNCH!

FRANKLIN SAINT FARTS?

GHRAFF

CHOADY WITHERSPOON?

CRANKY BUN-DUMPSTER? C'MON, MAN!

WHO IS IT?!

I KID. OF COURSE I REMEMBER OL' LED DENT.

THE TIT WHO TRIES TO PROTECT THE IMPOVERISHED THRONGS--

HURK!

--BUT THEY'RE SO HARDWIRED, THEY DON'T EVEN NOD IN GRATITUDE.

MAKIN' LED ANGRY **AIN'T** THE SMARTEST MOVE HERE, DAVEY.

LED DENT'S NOTHING BUT A PAPER-THIN **NERD** WHO SUCKED ON **FLAK'S** NANO-FILLED COCK 'CAUSE HE **COULDN'T** PROTECT YOU ON HIS OWN!

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GET *YOUR* NANOTECH, BUT LED IS JUST INJECTED WITH A NEEDLE.

DON'T KID YOURSELF--

YOU WERE SAYIN'?

WHUD!

WE ALL SUCK THE DICK SOMETIME, DEBBIE.

THE GAME IS **RIGGED!**

WHAT AN **UNWINNABLE** SLOG EVERYONE'S PARTICIPATING IN.

**CHEATS** ALL AROUND US, BUT OL' DAVEY STILL FIGHTING **FAIR!**

I WON'T TAKE CONTROL OF LED--

--YOUR BIKE, ON THE OTHER HAND--
TRRRRRTTTT!!
KWOOOM
NOT ANOTHER MOVE, TRAUMA!
WELL, IT'S ABOUT FUCKING TIME!
HOW MANY KOOKS MUST A MAN MOW DOWN BEFORE A CONSTABLE SHOWS?
SEVENTY.
NUMBER YOU JUST PASSEDD--ZRRTK--

CUT OFF **ONE** PERSON I AM USING FOR MY ILLICIT PURPOSE, AND **TWO** MORE PEOPLE OF THAT SAME VARIETY WILL SPRING FORTH IN THEIR PLACE--

--TO HELP ME DO WHATEVER I AM DOING, AND MAYBE ONE DAY LATER WE'LL EVEN BECOME **LEGIT** FRIENDS!

YOU **ARE** LIKE A MAGIC WIZARD HUNTER ON THE HIGH PLANES OF ADVENTURE, DAVEY!

WE FUCKING LOVE YOU!

THEN KILL FOR ME, MY DEARS !

BRAP BRAP

BRAPBRAP BRAP BRAP BRAP

SNK

PLNK

SNK

SNK

SNK

PLNK

SNK

BRAP BRAP BRAP BRAP BRAP BRAP

KILL YOUR LOVE INTO MY HEART!

AIEEE--!

YOU KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO.

I'M SORRY, BABY.

BONE GROWTH NANO--

FLIP

THOUGHT SUPPRESSION--

THERE IT IS--

DEEP

--RAGE ENHANCEMENT.

GHRAGHHH~!

FRRZZAP!

NANOPACK RELEASES A MONTH'S WORTH OF ADRENALINE--

HE BEGS LIKE A CHILD FOR ME STOP--

I TELL HIM TO SHUT HIS WEAK MOUTH--

--WE NEED HIM ANGRY.

YOU FUCKING CHEATERS!

KRROOOM

I ROFLSTOMPED YOUR ASS LIKE A BOSS!

A HANDSOME, WONDERFUL, CHARISMATIC, GOOD NEIGHBOR BOSS!

AND YOU HAD TO USE A BOOST TO BEAT ME, R-TARD--

KROKK

THIS FAIR ENOUGH FOR YOU, DAVEY?

GAKK--!

TARGET'S DOWN.

YOU CAN LET 'EM GO.

LED...

IT'S NOW OR NEVER.

WE NEED TO TALK.

I HAVE GOOD NEWS.

FLAK WAS SO SCARED OF DAVEY, I WAS ABLE TO USE IT TO MAKE A DEAL.

CATCHING DAVEY FULFILLS OUR CONTRACT.

YOU HEAR ME?

THAT'S IT.

WE'RE FINALLY FREE.

I DON'T HAVE TO BE OUT HERE ALL ALONE ANYMORE.

WE CAN GET YOU DETOXED.

GO TO TOKYO.

RUMOR IS AFTER THE WAR THEY WENT TECH-FREE.

WE CAN START OVER.

SOMEWHERE WITH TREES.

BUT YOU HAVE TO QUIT.

HE'S NOT RESPONDING.

YOU HAVE TO TELL FLAK YOU'RE DONE, BABY--IT HAS TO BE *YOUR* CHOICE.

*THAT* WAS OUR DEAL.

YOU *HAVE* TO LEAVE HIS TECH ON THE TABLE.

YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE.

FLAK WILL BE HERE SOON.

IF HE'S GOING TO QUIT THE JOB **HIMSELF**--

--FIRST HE NEEDS TO REMEMBER **WHO** HE IS.

ONLY WAY TO GET THROUGH TO HIM.

LED'S TERRIFIED OF INTIMACY.

MORE SCARED OF MY TOUCH THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

SCARED TO LET HIMSELF FEEL AGAIN.

WAKE UP.

TELL ME YOUR NAME.

REMEMBER FOR ME.

I CAN'T DO THIS ON MY OWN ANYMORE.

SAY IT.

SAY YOUR NAME, BABY.

M-MY...

MY SHOWS ARE ON.

THERE IT IS.

THE OBVIOUS TRUTH.

YOU'RE LOST INSIDE THIS IDIOT **FOREVER.**

NO WAY THROUGH HIM TO **YOU.**

YOU'RE **GONE,** TEDDY.

HOLLINGSWORTH

THE BOY I LOVE LOST INSIDE THE MAN HE'S **BECOME.**

SEAN MURPHY
HOLLINGSWORTH

--98% OF AMERICANS DENY HUMANS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, FINALLY HIP TO SCIENTISTS' PROFIT-DRIVEN LIES.

FLAKPLANET

IN OTHER GOOD NEWS, THE VICTIMS OF LAST NIGHT'S MURDER SPREE WERE ALL LOW FOLK, SO NO BIG WHOOP.

THIS IS KRONK BULLDONG WITH FLAK NEWS. TODAY, FOOD "SHORTAGES" LED TO AN UPRISING IN YORK SWAMPS--

FILTERED AIR CONDITIONING CARRIES THE SCENT OF ROSEMARY AND FERN.

THE WATERFALL, PIPED IN FROM ALASKA, MAKES CLEAN MIST.

FLAK TOWER--ONE LONG, SUNNY DAY IN A LOLLIPOP GARDEN.

I **FUCKING** HATE IT.

MORE THAN JUST WHAT IT REPRESENTS--

--THE **NEW** NAZI PARTY--THIS AIN'T GREAT-GREAT GRANDDADS NAZI PARTY!

--IF YOU LOVE KILLIN' THE HOMELESS, C'MON DOWN TO CREEPY DANIEL'S HOBO HUNT--

NEXT UP A NEW EPISODE OF **ONE-MAN OKTOBERFEST**--

--I HATE IT BECAUSE I WANT TO **STAY.**

WANT TO SINK INTO THE COMFORT AND FORGET WHAT'S OUTSIDE.

--TONIGHT ON **THOSE TITTIES AIN'T MUTATED**--

--LOOK OUT, BROWN LANTERN--IT'S FREDRICK VON LUNATIC!

MR. FLAK WILL SEE YOU NOW.

LED'S DIALED IN DEEP.

TRYIN' TO AVOID WHAT WE'RE HERE TO DO--

--TRYIN' TO FORGET THAT WE'RE QUITTING.

CONSTABLE LED DENT! THE SWINGINGEST DICK OF THE HOUR!

AND, OF COURSE, YOUR LOYAL KITTEN, TAMMY.

WHAT CAN I GET FOR YOU TWO? NAME YOUR POISON.

I RECOMMEND A TUG 'N' TONIC, LED. GOOD FOR THE STRESS.

WE'RE FINE, SIR.

IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO GET RIGHT TO IT AND DISCUSS OUR DEAL--

OF COURSE.

THAT DAVEY TRAUMA JOB, THAT WAS *SOME* RING-A-DING YOU PULLED OFF, LED.

DAVEY HAD BEGUN TO TAKE OVER A NUMBER OF *VERY* IMPORTANT SYSTEMS OF GOVERNANCE.

CAN YOU *IMAGINE* IF HE'D TAKEN CONTROL OF THE CITY'S MAINTENANCE 'BOTS OR, *HEAVEN FORBID,* MORE CONSTABLES?

SHUDDER.

SIR, YOU *PROMISED* IF WE BROUGHT DAVEY IN, OUR CONTRACTS WOULD BE--

A MAN WITH THE ABILITY TO SINK HIS CONSCIOUSNESS INTO THE INTERNET...

*TERRIFYING.*

SQUIRT

SOME FOLK AROUND HERE HAVE BEEN SAYING THAT DAVEY REPRESENTS A CAUTIONARY TALE ABOUT OUR DEPENDENCE ON TECHNOLOGY.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

dangle dangle

WELL, IF I'M HONEST--

NO PIOUS *LUDDITES* ARE GOING TO ENCROACH ON AN AMERICAN'S FREEDOM OF CHOICE!

WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO? PEOPLE WANT THEIR TECH.

IF THEY *LOVE* IT SO MUCH--HOW *BAD* CAN IT BE?

SHLRP

I COULDN'T HEAR YOU OVER THE SERVANTS DRINKING YOUR ***BATH-WATER.***

I ALWAYS WELCOME YOU TO SPEAK YOUR MIND, SANDY--

DEBBIE.

YOU THINK I ENJOY WATCHING PEOPLE DRINK MY PEE WATER, WENDY?

THE HORSES EAT THE ***APPLES***-- THE FLIES EAT THEIR ***SHIT.***

WAY THE WORLD'S ALWAYS BEEN. RIGHT, LED?

*HMM.*

LOOK, I DIDN'T CREATE THE PROBLEM.

ROBOTICS DO THE FARMING, MINING, MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION-- ***EVERYTHING.***

LEFT AN UNEMPLOYED POPULATION WITH A LOT OF FREE TIME.

SO, I KEEP THEM ***ENTERTAINED.***

YOU DROWN THEM IN ***IDIOCY,*** OR WORSE--ECHO CHAMBERS DESIGNED TO REINFORCE THEIR MISINFORMED OPINIONS.

PEOPLE ***DON'T*** CHANGE THEIR MINDS ANYMORE, BRANDY.

SO, I SAY, ***WHY BOTHER TRYING?***

I DIDN'T WIN THE WORLD RATINGS WAR BY FIGHTING HUMAN NATURE.

PEOPLE PICK A TRIBE AND FALL IN LINE.

SO, I GAVE THEM EACH THEIR OWN CHANNEL, TOLD THEM WHAT THEY WANTED TO HEAR--

I MAKE THEM ***COMFORTABLE.***

WHEN HUMAN LIFE BECAME WORTHLESS, I GAVE IT ***VALUE.***

EVERY SHOW WATCHED IS A ***PURCHASE.***

THOSE PURCHASES MOVE INDUSTRY AND CREATE ***JOBS.***

PLANET FLAK

CONSUMPTION GIVES HUMAN LIFE ***MEANING.***

SPEAKING OF STUFF PEOPLE NEED--WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT JAPAN, LED?

LED DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT GEOGRAPHY, BUT HE CAN NAME ALL THE MIMES ON *WHO SHAT IN MY CAR?*

ONE OF OUR *BEST* SHOWS.

THIS MORNING MY INTERROGATORS, HARD AT WORK ON MR. DAVEY TRAUMA, UNCOVERED SOME *INTERESTING* NEWS ABOUT THE CURRENT STATE OF JAPAN.

IT ALL BEGINS WITH A VERY HUSH-HUSH JAPANESE WEAPONS CONSORTIUM KNOWN AS "*PROJECT AKATA.*"

DURING THE BIG MELT, THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WAS WORKING ON A WAY TO GET THEIRS IN THE GLOBAL CLUSTERFUCKING.

ONE DR. AKATA WAS TASKED WITH COOKING UP WAYS TO GROW NEW FARMLANDS OR, FAILING THAT, WEAPONS TO HELP PLUNDER RESOURCES FROM OTHER NATIONS.

*DAVEY* IS ONE PRODUCT OF AKATA'S RESEARCH.

A HUMAN MIND CAPABLE OF INFILTRATING ANY COMPUTER SYSTEM, HACKING DEFENSE CODES, TAKING CONTROL OF DRONES, MAKING EVERYONE'S DICK PICS PUBLIC--

BUT THE PROCESS LEFT HIM TOO DERANGED TO BE OF USE.

WHEN OUR DIGITAL DANDY AWOKE FROM STASIS IN ONE OF THE OLD TOKYO FACILITIES, WELL, YOU WON'T *BELIEVE* WHAT HE FOUND OUTSIDE...

*PARADISE.*

WHATEVER PROJECT AKATA WAS UP TO--

--APPARENTLY LEFT TOKYO A GARDEN WITH ENOUGH FOOD AND CLEAN WATER TO SUPPLY OUR NATION OF LOS ANGELES FOR *DECADES.*

I HATE TO INTERRUPT, BUT CAN WE DISCUSS OUR RESIGNATION--

I REALIZE YOU TAKE ISSUE WITH *INEQUALITY*, SUSAN.

AND TOKYO IS FULL OF A LOT OF STUFF THAT *OUR PEOPLE* NEED.

TOKYO IS *YOUR* CHANCE TO HELP EVEN THE SCALES A BIT.

THE COCKSUCKER.

HE **KNEW.**

BUT, THERE'S A *MINOR* WRINKLE.

A GREEDY WARLORD HAS BLANKETED TOKYO IN AN EMP FIELD.

BASICALLY, IT ASS-FUCKS ANYTHING ELECTRIC.

AND THAT DAMNED EMP FIELD MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO SEND IN A TEAM TO SECURE THE RESOURCES OUR PEOPLE SO *DESPERATELY* NEED.

SO, MISS TECH-FREE--

--YOU'RE TAKING LED TO TOKYO.

SHUT DOWN THE EMP.

KILL THE WARLORD IN CHARGE. YOU DO THIS, I'LL HONOR OUR AGREEMENT--

FORTUNATELY, WE'VE RETRIEVED GLIMPSES OF THE WARLORD FROM DAVEY'S MIND.

NASTY.

HOARDING THE RESOURCES, STARVING THE PEOPLE, RULES OF VIOLENCE, YADDA-YADDA.

YOU GET THE GIST.

--YOU'RE BOTH FREE OF YOUR CONTRACTS.

NO MORE SERVANTS FORCED TO DRINK MY BATHWATER. AND EVERYONE GETS RICH.

YOU *HAVE* TO SUCCEED. IF YOU DON'T--

"--THERE WON'T BE A LOS ANGELES TO COME HOME TO."

FLAK PLANET

BA-VROOM!

MUCH AS I HATE IT, WE DON'T REALLY HAVE MUCH CHOICE, YOU KNOW?

GOTTA DO WHAT FLAK SAYS, RIGHT?

THE RUMORS ABOUT TOKYO ARE TRUE.

AND FLAK IS SENDING US THERE--

SOME LUCK.

ROLEX

MYSTIC TUNNEL

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, BABY--

WE BOTH REMEMBER THE LAST TIME WE TRIED TO GET YOU CLEAN.

DID FLAK KNOW WHAT I HAD PLANNED?

BUT WE CAN DO THIS.

DOES HE KNOW THAT ONCE WE GET TO TOKYO--

--WE'RE **NEVER** COMING BACK?

IT'S JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE, OKAY?

IT'S IMPORTANT WORK. WE'RE GOING TO TAKE DOWN A DICTATOR. BRING HOME FOOD AND WATER TO THE LOW FOLK.

MYSTIC SEWER

IF WE DON'T, HE'LL CUT YOU OFF--NO MORE NANOPACK EVER, YOU KNOW?

BUSH VII

SEXXON

OIL

BIG DUMMY LED NODS. THE TECH GETS HIM ONBOARD.

LED NEEDS IT.

BUT I NEED YOU, TEDDY.

ONCE WE PULL THAT FUCKIN' PLUG--

--I'LL NEVER LOSE YOU TO IT AGAIN.

NOW, THIS SUB'LL GIT YA HALF ACROSS THE WORLD IF YA NEED.

LOADED YER BIKE.

AN INDUSTRIAL CLEANSER FER PARTY MESS.

ALL JUST LIKE FLAK ASKED.

FLAK BRAND

YUP, YER ALL RET' 'TA GET FER WHATEVER STRANGE SHIT YER UP TO.

THANK YOU.

DON'T WORRY, BABY, WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER.

M-MY SHOWS...

WHEN WE GET BACK, YOU CAN CATCH UP ON ALL OF THEM.

DON'T BE AN ASSHOLE.

WE'RE LEAVING. IT'S REALLY FUCKING HAPPENING.

A STRANGE FEELING HITS ME. CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT AT FIRST.

THEN I REALIZE, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME--

--I'M HAPPY.

OKAY, BABY. NO TIME TO DO THIS RIGHT--NEED TO WAKE YOU UP BEFORE WE HIT THE EMP IN A FEW DAYS.

I HAVE TO SHOCK YOU--WAKE UP YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS.

THREE, TWO--

FHRAAHH-!

THE DISTRACTION DAM BREAKS.

RELEASING A FLOOD OF MEMORIES.

YEARS OF SUPPRESSED EMOTIONS.

THE PERSON HE LOCKED UP COMES RUSHING OUT--

--AND **NONE** TOO PLEASED.

PANGLE

OKAY. HUSH NOW.

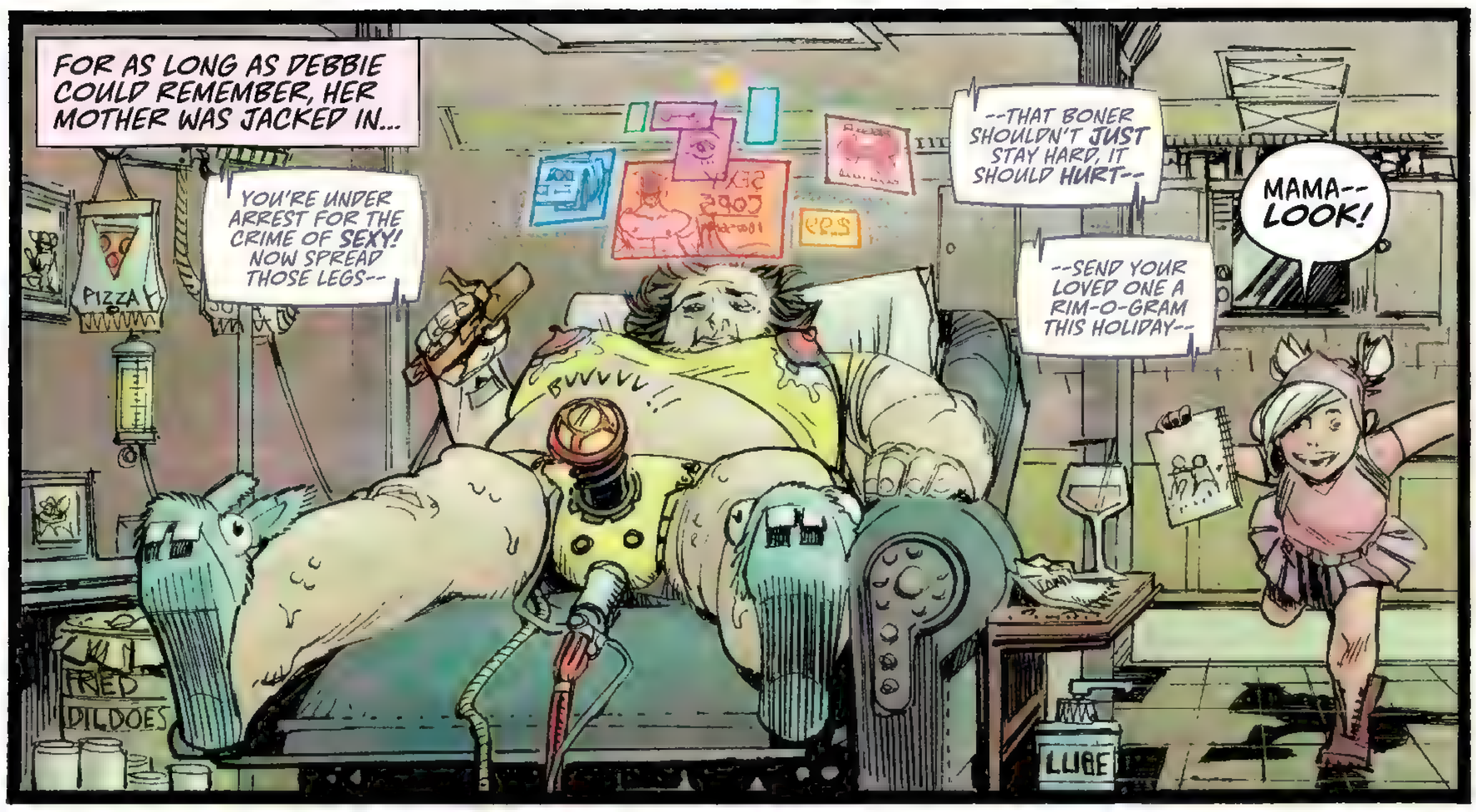
I'M HERE, BABY. GOT A SEDATIVE TO HELP YOU SLEEP.

AND WHEN YOU WAKE UP...

...YOU'LL BE MY TEDDY AGAIN.

KISS

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A GIRL NAMED DEBBIE JACOBS AND A BOY NAMED TEDDY DENNIS.




DEBBIE WAS RAISED BY HER FATHER, ONE OF THE LAST TECH-FREE DETECTIVES IN THE LAPD. DEBBIE LOVED HER DAD MORE THAN ANYTHING. HE WAS KIND, GIVING, WARM, AND BRAVE. EVERYTHING SHE ASPIRED TO BE.

A RARE HONEST COP, BACK BEFORE THE POLICE WERE DISSOLVED FOR PRIVATE SECURITY FORCES, HE TAUGHT DEBBIE THAT THE ONLY WAY A SOCIETY WAS WORTH LIVING IN IS IF PEOPLE HELPED EACH OTHER.

EVEN IF THE FOLKS BEING HELPED DIDN'T NOTICE.

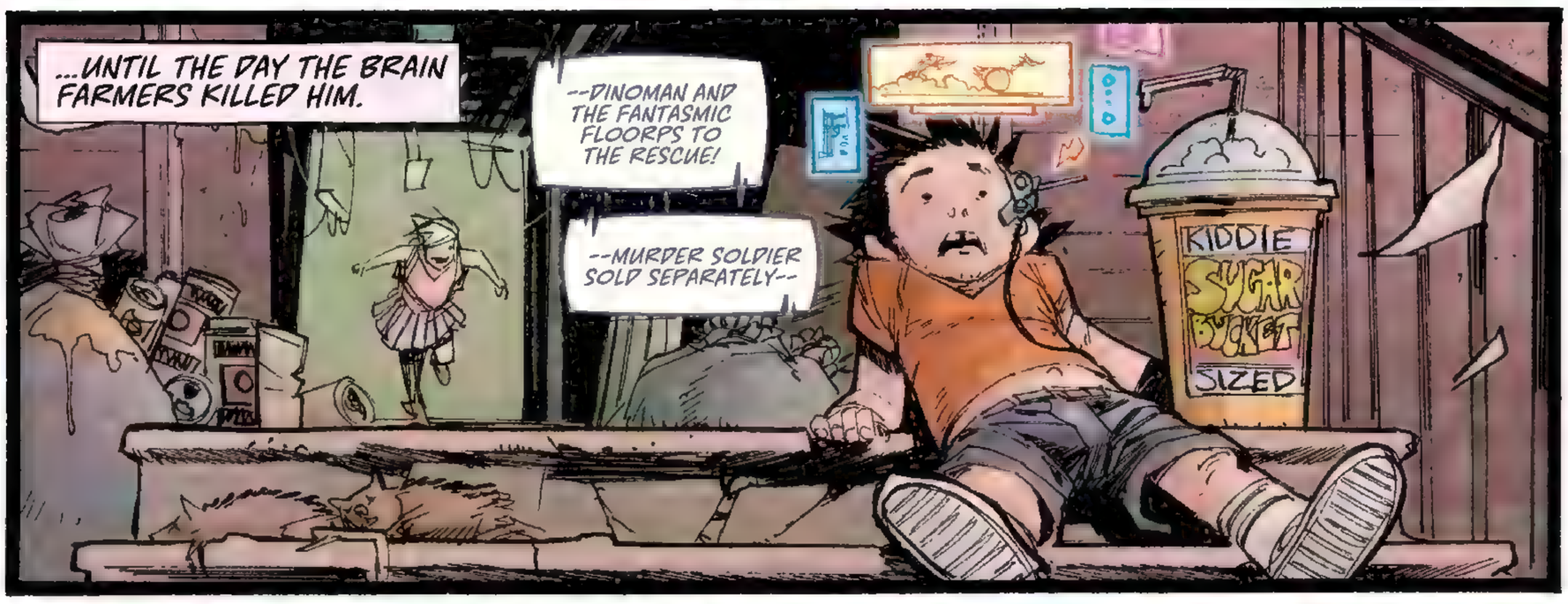
HER FATHER WOULD OPENLY WEEP AS HE BEGGED HIS WIFE TO COME OUT OF THE VIRTUAL COFFIN SHE'D FALLEN INTO.

DEBBIE SWORE SHE'D NEVER END UP IN THE SAME SITUATION.

TO ESCAPE THE SADNESS AT HOME, HER DAD WOULD TAKE DEBBIE TO SILVER LAKE SHORE, WATCH THE SUNSET, AND TALK.

HE TAUGHT HER THAT EVEN A DIFFICULT REALITY IS BETTER THAN RETREAT INTO A CYBER-FORGERY. NEVER RETREAT.

AND HE NEVER DID...



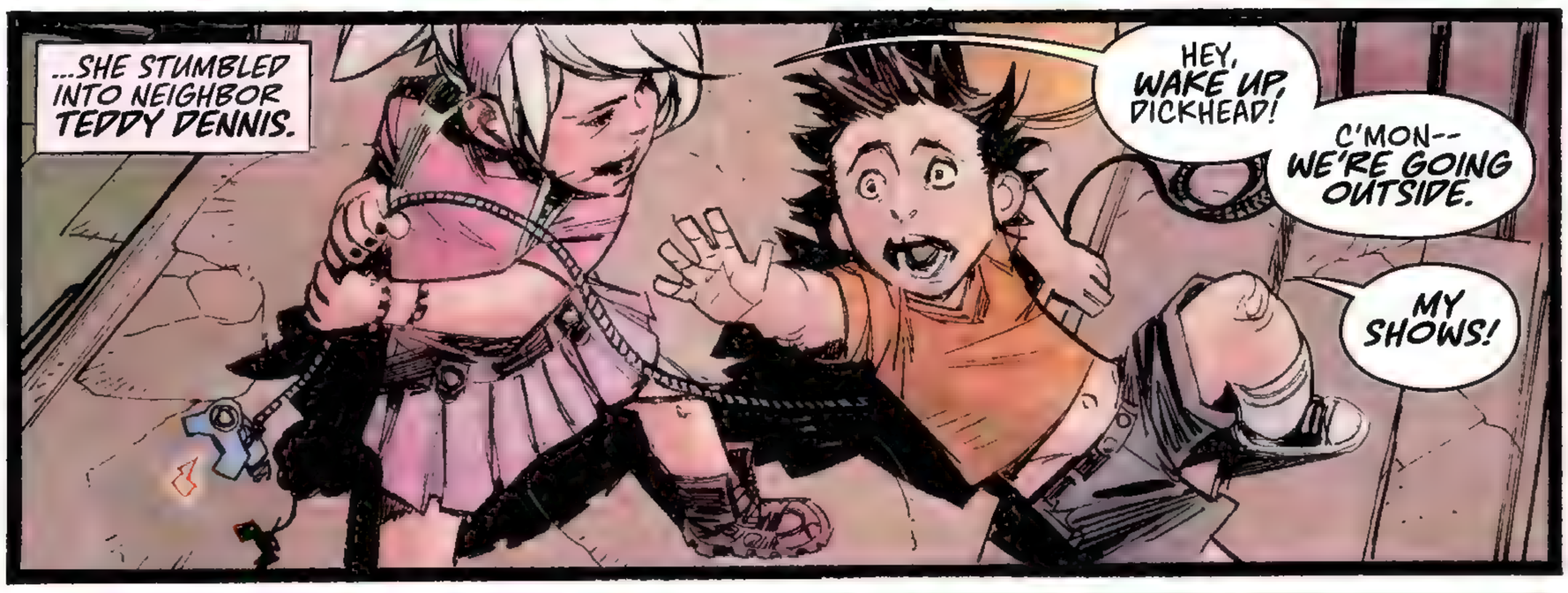

DEBBIE MISSED HER DAD TERRIBLY.

SHE KEPT HIM CLOSE, NEVER FORGETTING THE LESSONS HE'D TAUGHT.

SHE NEVER STOPPED PLAYING OUTSIDE. NEVER WENT ONLINE.

BUT, OVER TIME, SHE WAS LONELY. SHE WANTED REAL FRIENDS, ACTUAL KIDS TO RUN AND PLAY WITH.

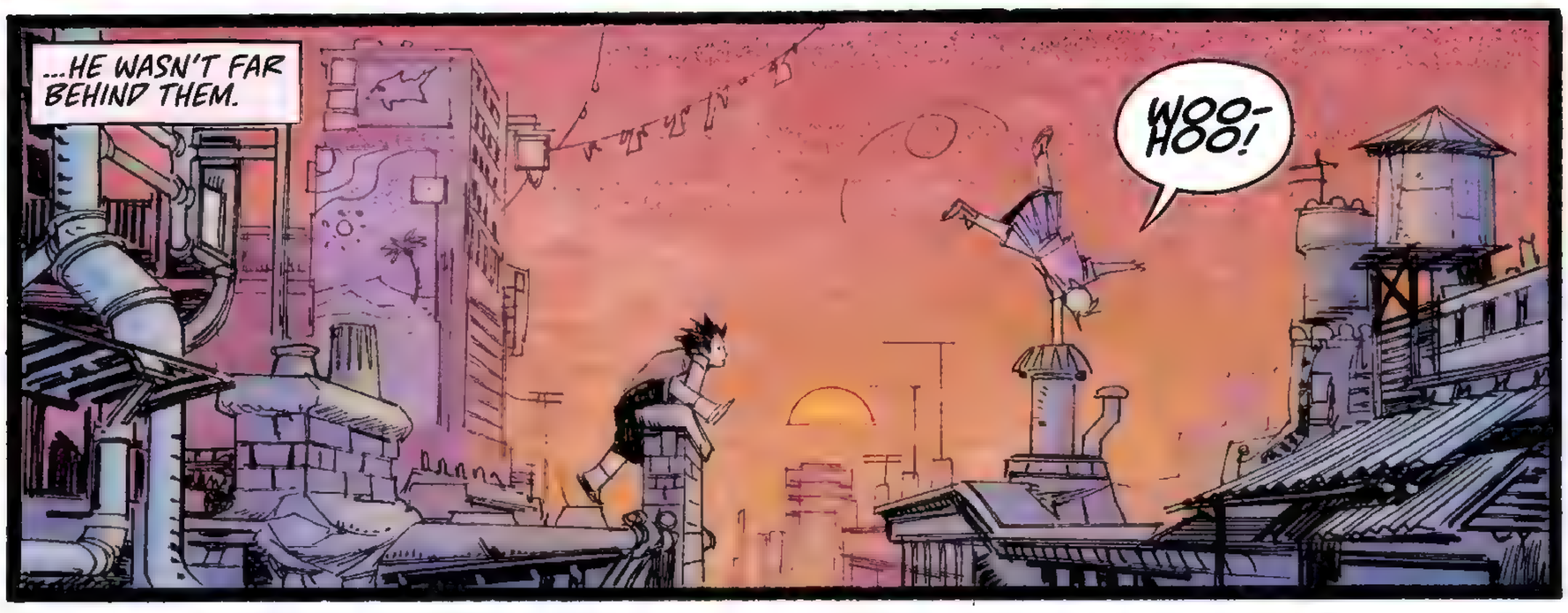
ONE FATEFUL DAY AS YOUNG DEBBIE WAS GOING OUT TO PLAY...




DEBBIE HAD GROWN UP LISTENING TO TEDDY'S PARENTS FIGHT NEXT DOOR, OFTEN ABOUT HOW TO GET RID OF THE BOY.

BUT THE FIGHTING EVENTUALLY STOPPED. TEDDY'S PARENTS HAD FOUND THEIR ESCAPE. THEY'D GONE IN PERMANENT, AND TOTALLY CHECKED OUT.

ON THE DAY OUR NOBLE HEROINE FOUND TEDDY...

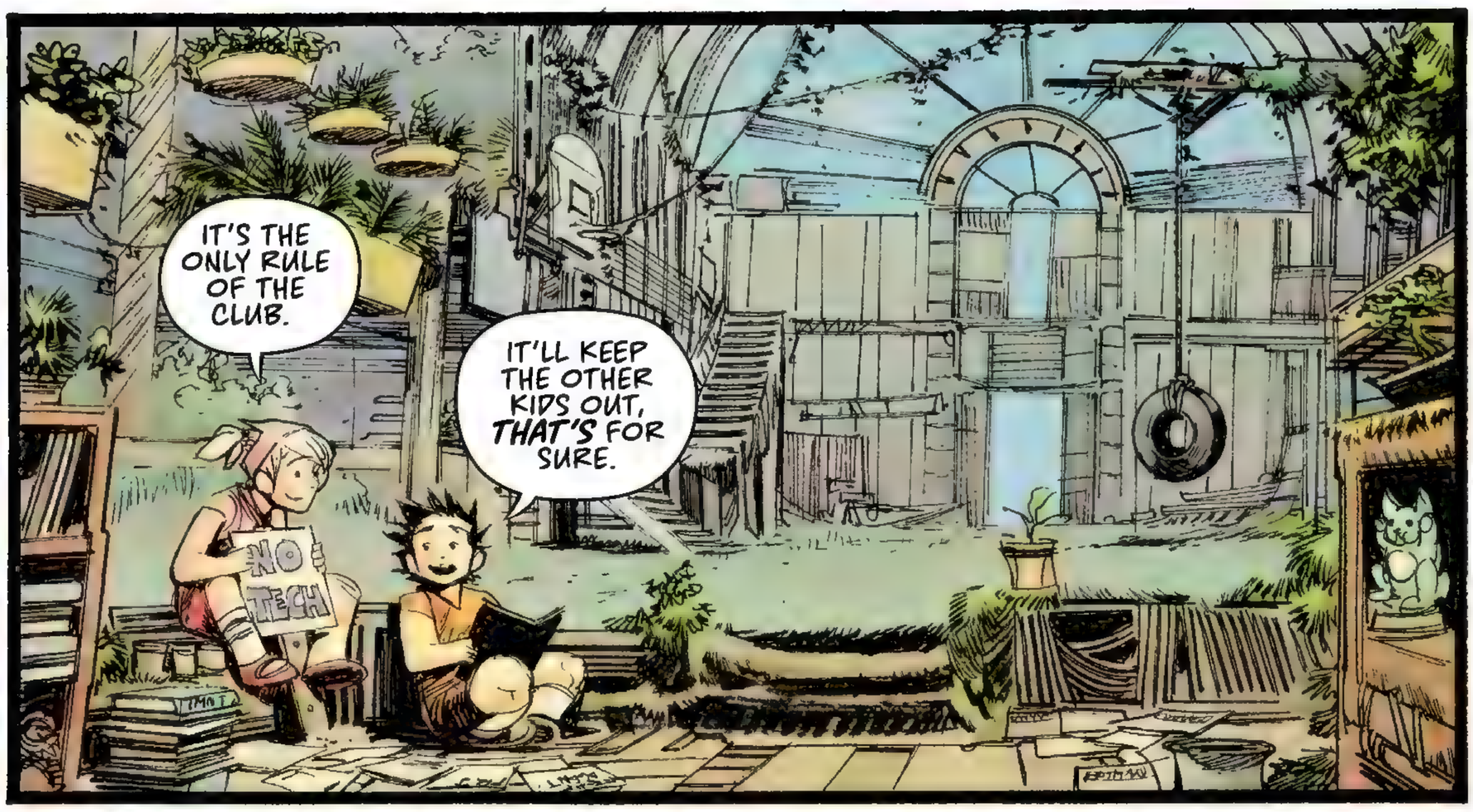



DEBBIE TAUGHT TEDDY WHAT HER FATHER TAUGHT HER--LIVING LIFE OUTSIDE IS MORE FUN. AND GIVEN HOW CUTE SHE WAS, THE POOR BOY WAS SMITTEN. HE NEVER STOOD A CHANCE.

FROM THEN ON EVERY DAY THEY RAN TOGETHER, MAKING THE BEST OF WHAT THEY WERE BORN INTO.

THEY RAN THE ROOFTOPS AND THE ALLEYWAYS.

THEY HOWLED AT THE MOON.




THEY FOUND AN ABANDONED GREENHOUSE AND MADE IT THEIR HOME.

A SECRET GARDEN WHERE THEY PLAYED KICKBALL, READ BOOKS, AND MADE ART. IT WAS THERE, YEAR BY YEAR, THAT THEY BECAME THE BEST OF FRIENDS.

NO ONE ELSE UNDERSTOOD THEM OR CARED TO TRY. THEY WERE THE ONLY FAMILY THEY NEEDED. WHICH WAS GOOD...

TIME PASSED.

THEY GREW UP.

FELL IN LOVE.

SHARED THEIR FIRST KISS.

OUTSIDE OF THE GARDEN, THEY WERE ALWAYS IN DANGER.

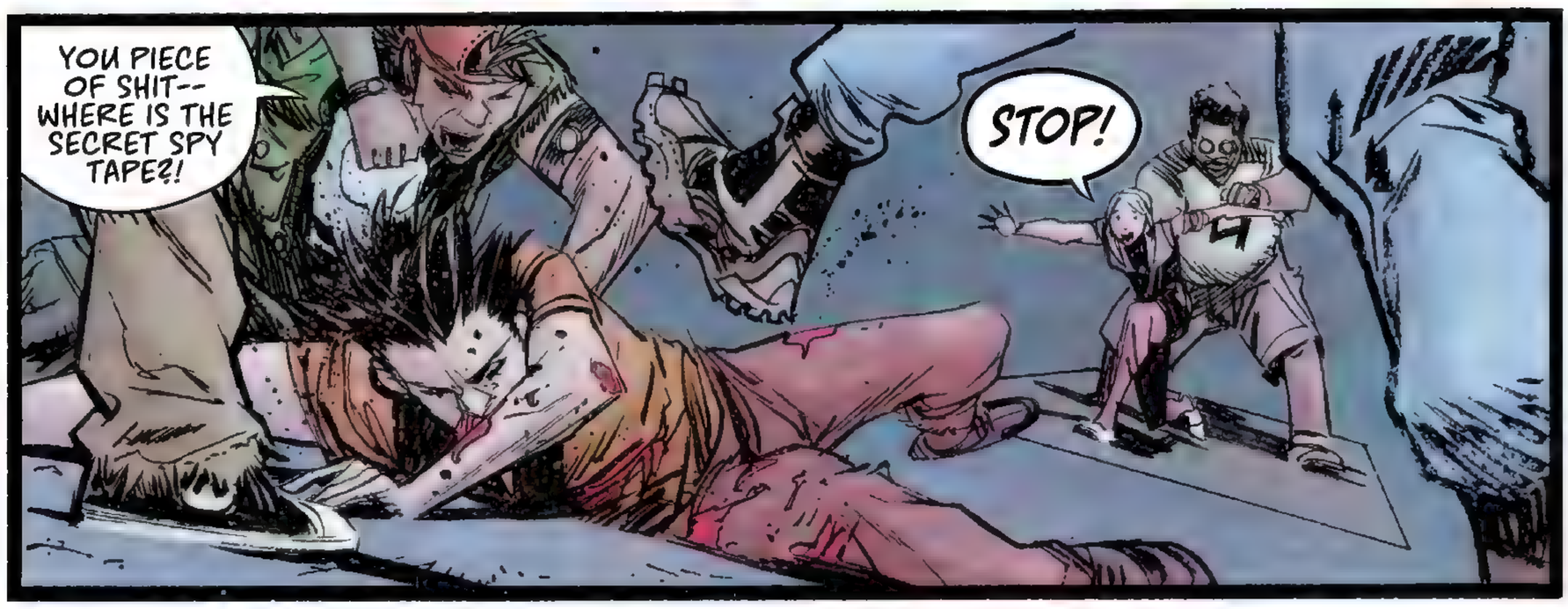
TECH HEADS, EMO DEALERS, BODY PIRATES, CANNIBAL HUNTERS...

BEING ATTACKED WAS THE RISK THEY TOOK TO GO OUTSIDE.

BUT TEDDY GREW ANGRY. TIRED OF BEING PICKED ON IN FRONT OF HIS GIRL. EMBARRASSED BY THE VERY VULNERABILITY DEBBIE FELL IN LOVE WITH.

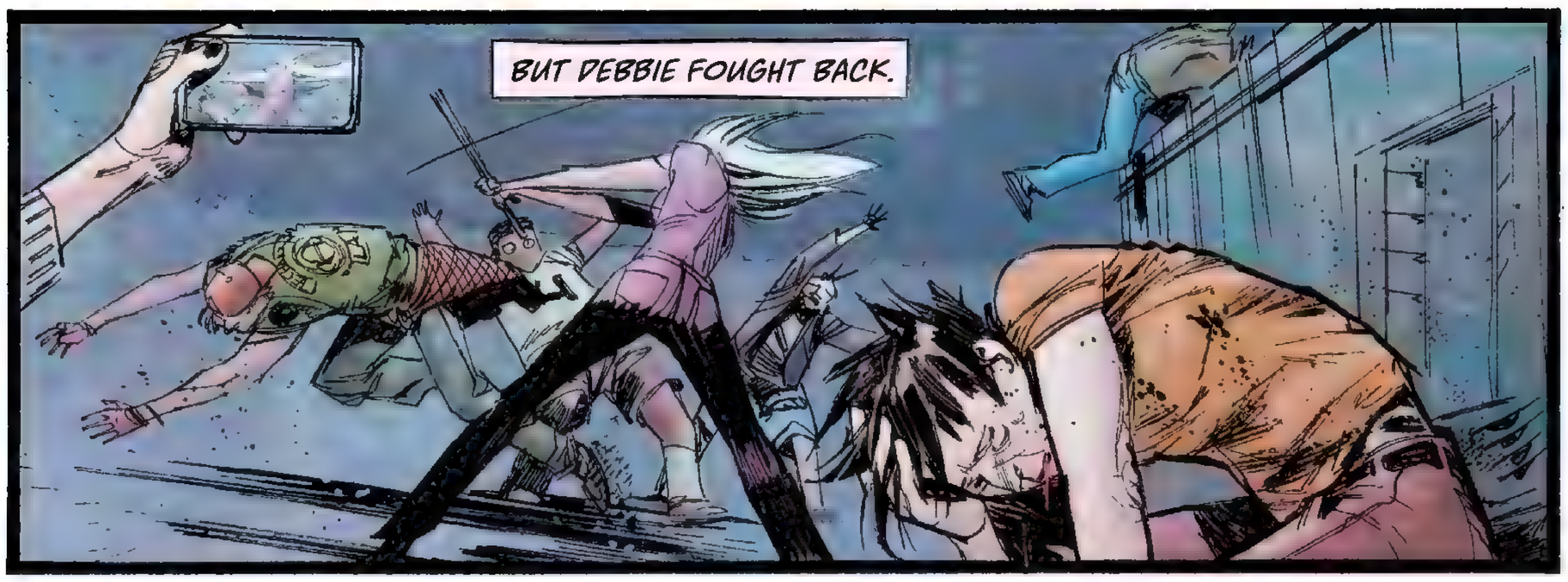
ONE DAY AS THEY CAME HOME FROM THE SECRET GARDEN A BAND OF FAME BANGERS FOUND THEM.

THESE CUNTS MADE MILLIONS FILMING REALITY CRIME. STITCHED TOGETHER WITH A "STORY" TO MAKE IT "ART."




THEY BEAT TEDDY NEAR TO DEATH.

ALL THE WHILE READING FROM A SCRIPT.



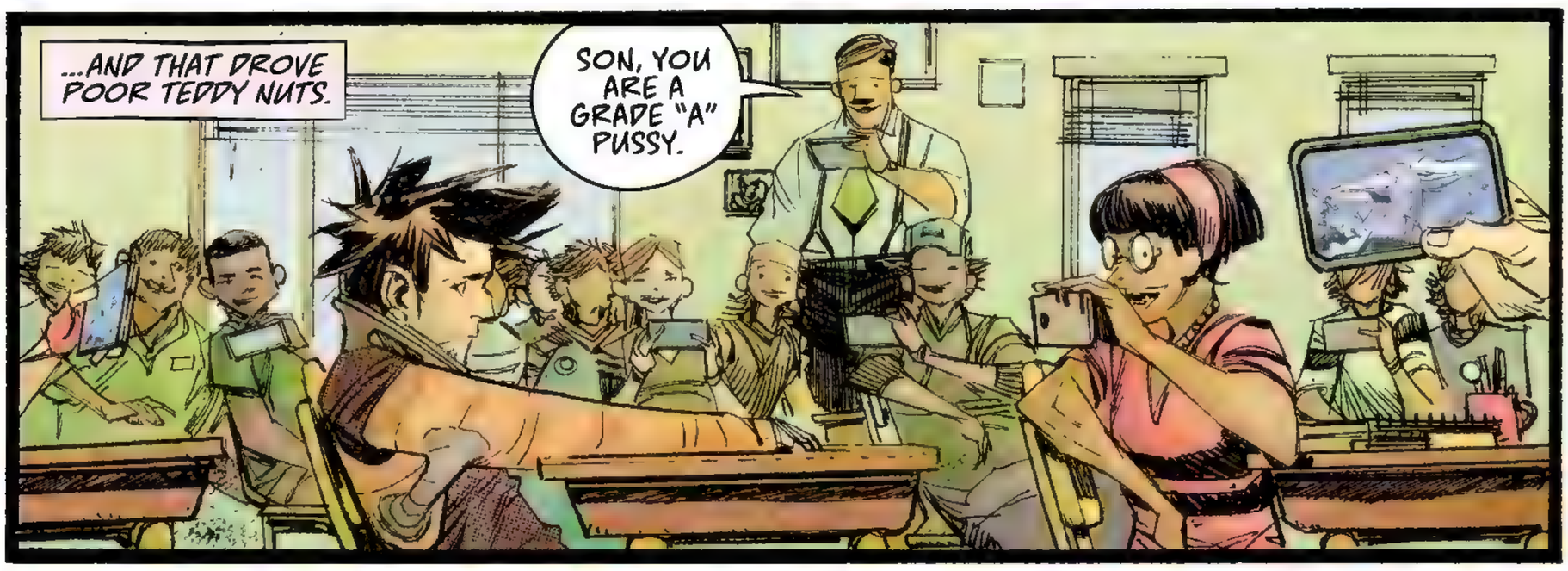

HER DAD HAD TAUGHT HER MORE ABOUT POLICE WORK THAN JUST POETIC IDEOLOGY. HE ALSO TAUGHT HER HOW TO FUCK A BAND OF ASSHOLES UP.

AND HOWDY.

THE DICKS RAN SCARED.

BUT HER PROTECTING TEDDY WAS THE WORST THING THAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO THE YOUNG LOVERS.

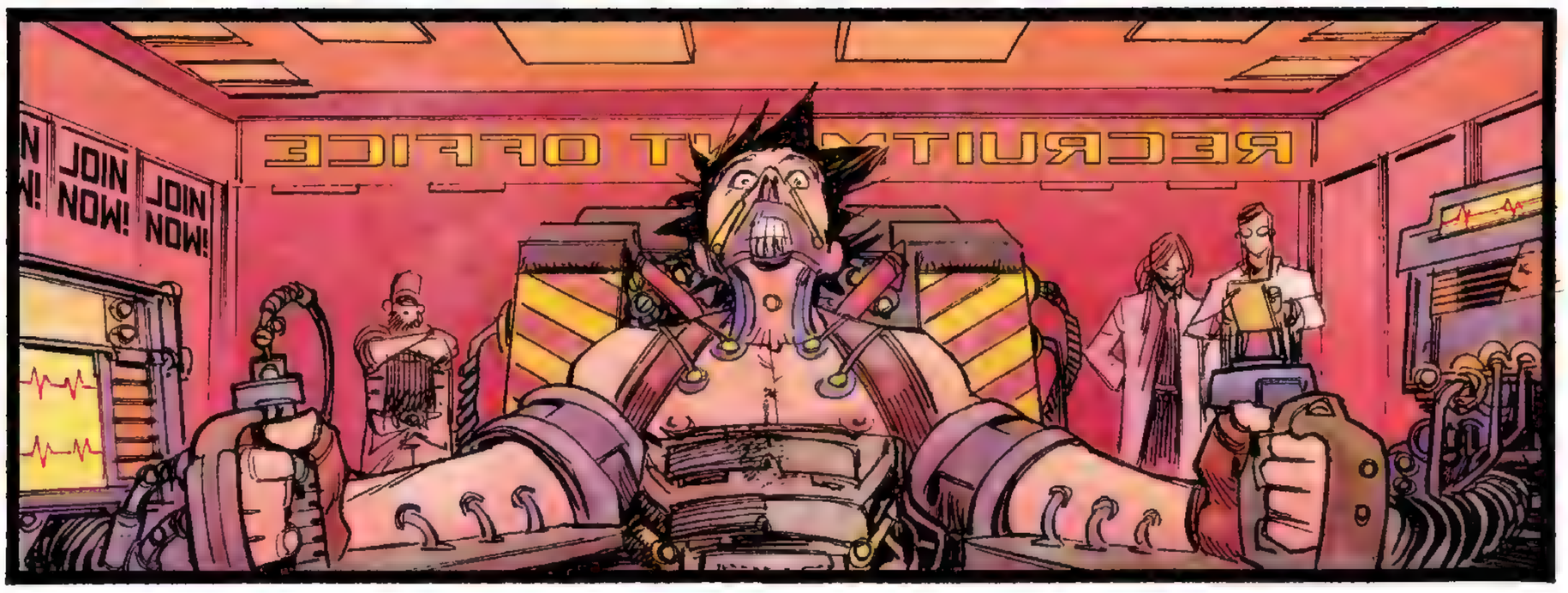
IT SHONE A BRIGHT LIGHT ON HIS WEAKNESS...




THE VIDEO OF HIS BEATING BECAME A CLICK-HIT.

**EVERYONE** HAD SEEN IT THE NEXT DAY AT SCHOOL. THEY WERE ALL LAUGHING AT WEAK TEDDY, PROTECTED BY HIS GIRLFRIEND.

THE CLIP BECAME THE SECOND-MOST WATCHED OF THE YEAR. BEAT OUT ONLY TO A GAME SHOW THAT HAS POOR PEOPLE COUNT RICH PEOPLE'S MONEY.

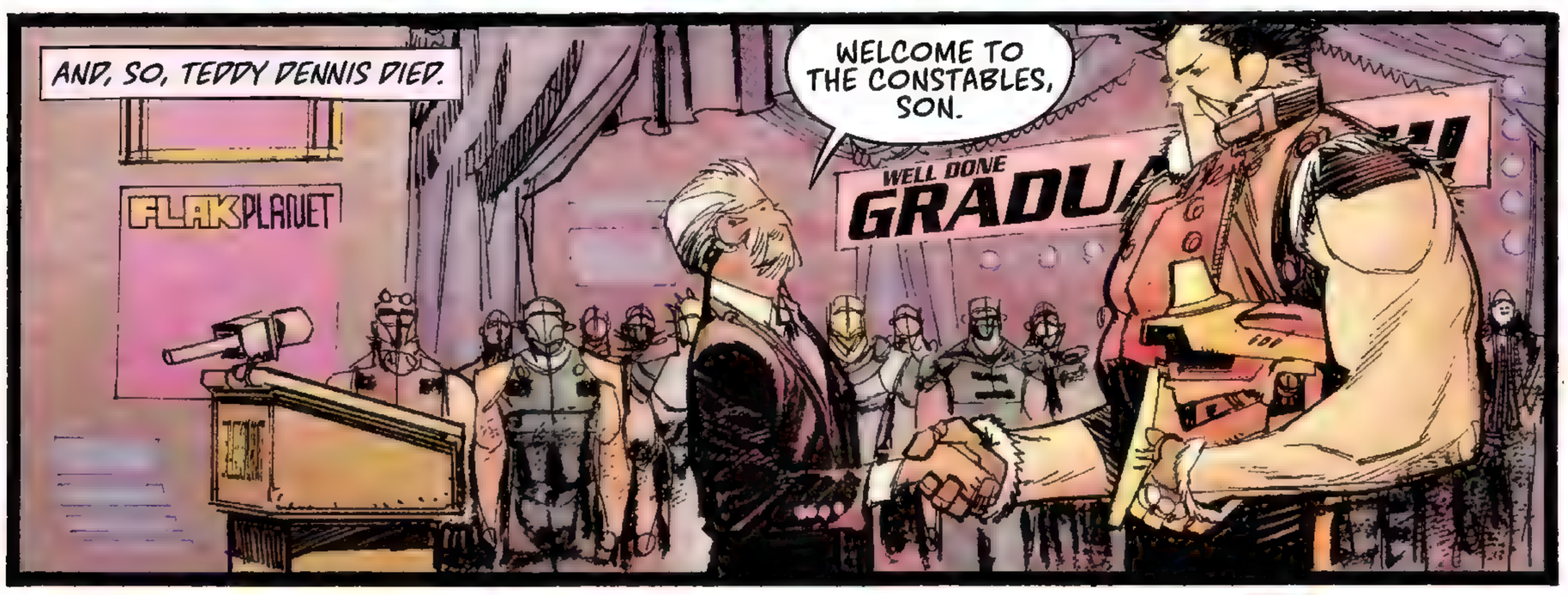



THE CONSTABLE PROGRAM WAS BUILT FOR GUYS LIKE TEDDY: SMALL MEN WITH BIG CHIPS ON THEIR SHOULDERS. THE KIND WHO HAD TASTED A BEATING--

--AND WERE READY TO GIVE ONE **BACK.**

TEDDY DIDN'T TELL DEBBIE. SHE KNEW FROM HER FATHER ABOUT THE HUNDREDS OF NANOBOTS THEY PUT IN THOSE POOR BASTARDS... SHE WOULD HAVE STOPPED HIM.

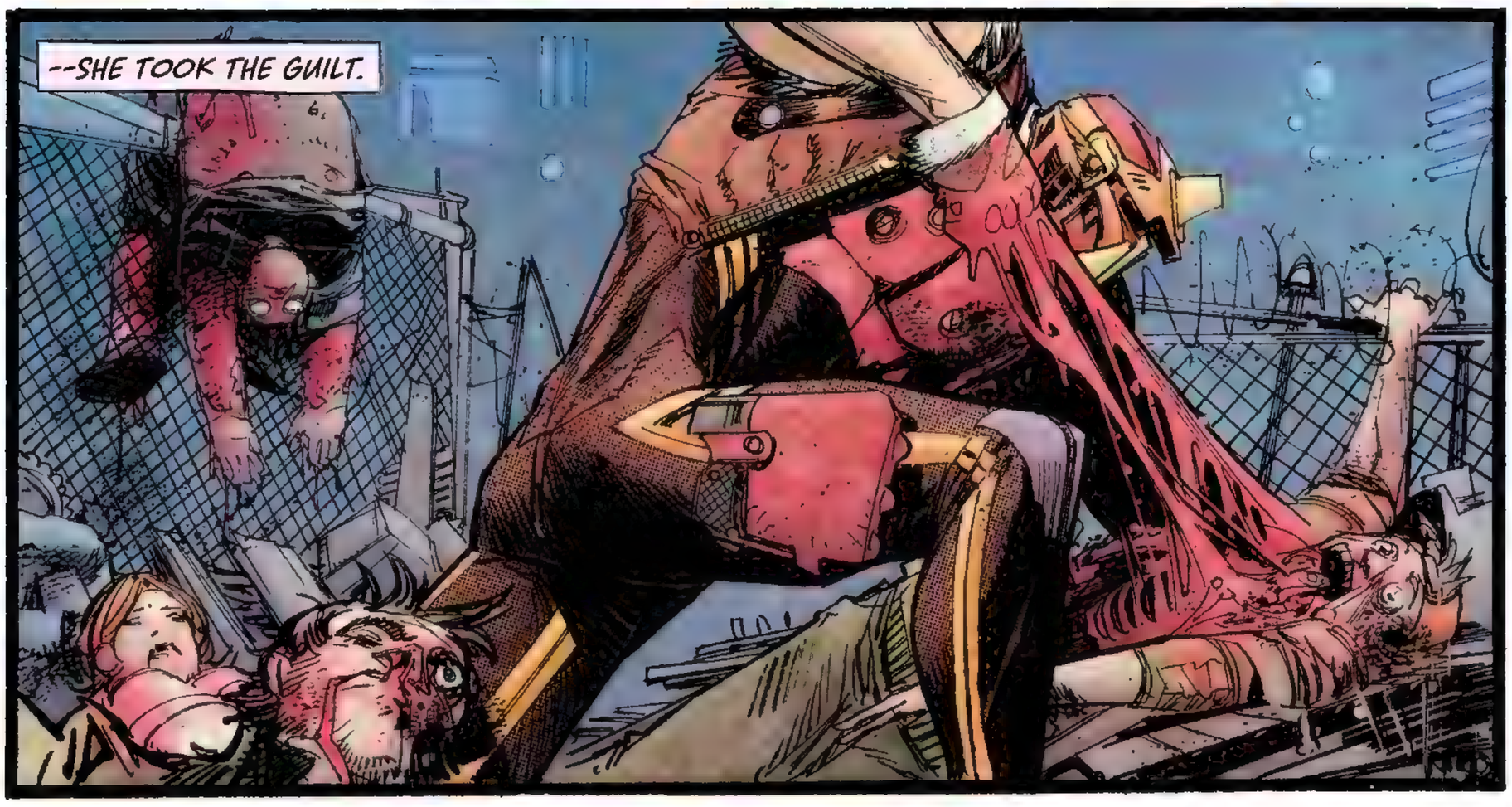
THE SELF-CENTERED PRICK LEFT HER A NOTE: "I'LL PROTECT YOU."




AND **LED DENT** WAS BORN.

DID TEDDY BECOME A CONSTABLE FOR DEBBIE OR FOR HIMSELF?

WHICHEVER IT WAS--




ON HIS FIRST DAY AS CONSTABLE, HE FOUND THE GANG WHO BEAT HIM.

AND NEARLY KILLED THEM ALL.

AS TIME WENT BY, LED DENT BECAME THE MOST FEARED MAN ALIVE. YEARS OF SEETHING FINALLY GIVEN SOME WAY OUT.

LED BECAME ADDICTED TO THE POWER.

DEBBIE TRIED TO HOLD HIM TOGETHER. HOLDING ON TO THE TECH HEAD SHE LOVED. SHE ENDED UP IN THE EXACT SITUATION SHE SWORE TO AVOID...

...SHE WAS JUST LIKE HER DAD.

NO ONE BELIEVES IN LOVE ANYMORE.

THEY SAY IT'S JUST A WORD TO PRETTY UP A BIOLOGICAL *URGE.*

BUT I *DO* LOVE YOU, TEDDY.

I LOVE YOU DOWN TO YOUR *GUTS.* OR I WOULDN'T BE HERE. THAT'S FOR *SURE.*

IDIOT THERAPIST SAYS I'M CO-DEPENDENT...

"...BUT HOW IS IT HEALTHY TO LEAVE SOMEONE YOU LOVE TO *DROWN?*"

*FUCK 'EM.* CALL IT WHATEVER YOU WANT.

MAYBE IT'S JUST TWO PEOPLE CLINGING TO EACH OTHER TO STAY ALIVE.

MAYBE SOMETIMES THAT'S ALL LOVE *GETS* TO BE.

AND, MAYBE, IF THEY HOLD ON TO EACH OTHER LONG ENOUGH...

"...MAYBE SOMETHING GOOD *FINALLY* HAPPENS."

DAY NINE.
TOKYO, ISSHIKI BEACH

THE EMP SHUT OFF THE ENGINES A MILE OUT.

FLAK HAD A COUPLE OF OLD STEAM ENGINES AS BACKUP.

I WONDER HOW LONG UNTIL HE REALIZES WE AREN'T COMING BACK?

WHAT WILL HE DO WHEN HE REALIZES...

...HE JUST GAVE ME **EVERYTHING** I EVER WANTED?

A DAY ON THE BEACH SHOULD BE ENOUGH. WAIT TO SEE IF THE WARLORD KNOWS WE'RE HERE...

FUCKING CHRIST-- *WHAT IS THAT?*

THAT'S WHAT THE SUN LOOKS LIKE WITHOUT A CLOUD OF SHIT COVERING IT.

ENOUGH STALLING. WE NEED TO FIND WHERE THE WARLORD'S CAMP IS. GET THIS DONE AND GO ***HOME.***

YEAH, BUT NOT NOW.

NOW WE GO FIND A PLACE TO HIDE OUT-- HEAL YOU UP. YOU'RE IN NO SHAPE--

I'M FEELING...

I'M ***FINE,*** DEBBIE.

I ***DON'T*** NEED YOU PROTECTING ME.

YES, YOU DO.

***WHERE*** ARE YOU GOING?!

LOOK AROUND.

DON'T BE SEEN.

TELL ME WHAT TO DO...

NOT A FUCKING KID ANYMORE.

HANDLE MY SHIT.

I CAN--

HURKK

KRIK

!

DEBBIE!

GRAB.

THERE'S SOMEONE UP HERE!

POINT

FUCK-
FUCK-
FUCK--

IF HE ALERTS THE OTHERS--

FUCK.

STOP, ASSHOLE, OR I'LL--

RRAHAGH--
DEBBIE--!
VIZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ!!!
DOINK.
HOLD TIGHT.
WOOSH!
VIZZZZZ!

PWOK

OOF--!

TACKLE!

WHUD!

AND *WHAT* HAVE WE HERE?

WEEDS IN MY GARDEN.

SEAN MURPHY

HI. UM...

THAT LOOKED BAD... BARRELING IN HERE, CHASING YOUR PAL--

WITH A *RIFLE.*

YEAH. I WASN'T GONNA HURT--I JUST WANT TO FRIEND YOUR--*UGH*-- I MEAN--

I CAN'T SEEM TO TALK... SORRY...

YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL, I WANT TO *SHIT.*

IF YOU MUST, BUT PLEASE WAIT UNTIL I'VE HEALED THE INJURY TO YOUR ARM.

AND DON'T WORRY. YOUR SUB IS SAFE ON THE BEACH.

YOU KNEW I WAS HERE?

IT IS A POOR GARDENER WHO IS UNAWARE OF WEEDS.

DON'T LOVE BEING CALLED A "WEED"...

KRRTTCH

WE ARE *ALL* WEEDS.

WEEDS TOO CAN BLOSSOM, IF NOURISHED AND LOVED.

ISN'T THAT WHY YOU CAME?

YEAH. TRAVELED ALONE FOR WEEKS--

TWUP

OOF!

UM...

THERE IS NO *NEED* FOR LIES. YOU'RE SAFE HERE.

ALL *REFUGEES* FROM THE POLLUTION ARE WELCOME.

WHAT THE *SHIT* IS THIS *FUCK?*

MY BOYFRIEND MIGHT PUT THAT TO THE TEST.

THIS *"SHIT"* IS OUR HOME.

WE ARE ALL MIGRANTS SEEKING PURITY AFTER A LIFE SPENT IN SMOG.

GUESS WE CAUGHT YOU ON *"DRESS UP LIKE A SAMURAI DAY"?*

WE LIVE NEO-BUSHIDO.

WELL, THAT CLEARS THAT UP.

IT WILL IN TIME.

YOU'RE TIRED. YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A GREAT DEAL TO JOIN US.

BUT YOU *ARE* AMONG FRIENDS--ALL HERE SUFFERED TO ANSWER OUR SPIRIT'S THIRST.

NO RELIGION CAN QUENCH IT.

NO DRUG CAN SUPPRESS THE PAIN.

STILL, DRUGS DON'T TEND TO HAVE AS MANY MOSQUITOES.

WE ARE BORN WITH A DEEP NEED FOR NATURE.

SIMPLE, CALM SYMMETRY WITH THE WORLD AROUND US.

IN OUR QUEST FOR CONVENIENCE, WE'VE TRADED IN THE EARTH FOR SYNTHETIC FACSIMILE.

FOLKS ON TV DON'T TEND TO BE AS *PREACHY.*

SHH!

WE POLLUTE THAT WHICH WE MOST NEED--TEARING UP THE PERFECT SIMPLICITY WE WERE *INTENDED* TO LIVE AMIDST.

IN DENYING THAT CONNECTION, WE'VE GROWN SICK.

THIS IS THE CURE.

WOW.

I COMMEND YOU-- IT IS HARD TO SHED THE COCOON OF FAMILIARITY AND SEEK OUT A BETTER LIFE--

EVEN WHEN WHAT WE LEAVE BEHIND IS *TOXIC.*

WE OFTEN ATTACH OURSELVES TO WHATEVER IS NEAREST AND CONVINCE OURSELVES IT IS RIGHT.

EVEN WHEN WE KNOW IT ***ISN'T.***

=KOFF= FEELIN' LIKE THAT WAS DIRECTED AT ME.

WE HAVE SIMPLE EXPECTATIONS.

ALWAYS CHOOSE WHAT IS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLAN.

CONSUME ***ONLY*** WHAT YOU PRODUCE.

FORGIVE ***ALL*** SLIGHTS.

AND NO VIOLENCE.

HUH?

YOU DON'T HURT ***FUCKERS*** WHEN THEY ACT LIKE ***ASSHOLES,*** WHAT'S TO STOP 'EM FROM ACTING LIKE ***BIGGER*** ASSHOLES?

STOP TALKING.

WHAP.

BUSHIDO REFERS NOT ONLY TO ***MARTIAL*** RECTITUDE BUT ***PERSONAL*** RECTITUDE.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN SERVING ***EACH OTHER,*** WE SERVE OUR ***OWN*** INTERESTS.

IN SERVING OUR WORLD, OUR WORLD SERVES ***US.***

ALLOWING US TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH IT.

I DIDN'T GET YOUR NAMES.

DEBORA.

=SNIFF=

BLACH.

TEDDY.

***AIN'T*** THE NAME I KNEW YOU BY.

HOW *STUPID* DO YOU THINK WE ARE?

YOU THINK YOU'D WALK RIGHT IN HERE TELLIN' KAZUMI SENSEI *LIES?*

TELL ME YOU'RE FROM LOS ANGELES.

BORN AND RAISED ON HER *BEAUTIFUL* ISLES.

AND YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME, HUH, "TEDDY"?

TAKE A *GOOD* LOOK.

I'M LOOKIN' BUT I DON'T SEE MUCH "GOOD."

*HAR!* LIGHTEN UP! I'M YANKIN' YOUR CORD.

I LIKE TO TAKE THE TEMPERATURE OF NEW ARRIVALS. I JUST NEEDED TO SEE IF YOU'D THROW A PUNCH.

WELCOME TO THE CLAN, TEDDY-BOY!

NAME'S MASH. YOU NEED *ANYTHING,* YOU LET ME KNOW.

PLEASE, MASH, CHOOSE YOUR CONDUCT IN ACCORDANCE WITH REASON.

OUR NEW NEIGHBORS ARE WEARY. SAVE THEM UNNEEDED STRESS.

AN' WHAT IF I'D RESPONDED HOW I SHOULD'VE TO HIS CUNTY JOKE AN' BROKEN HIS LAST LEG?

WHAT THEN?

A STERN TALKIN'-TO?

A SAMURAI RECEIVES MORE RESPECT FOR THE WAY HE TREATS OTHERS THAN FOR HIS SKILL IN THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

WE STRIKE WHEN TO STRIKE IS RIGHT.

WE DIE WHEN TO DIE IS RIGHT.

MOM!

TAKARA, I SEE NAUGHTINESS IN YOUR EYES.

HAVE THE MISCHIEF MONKEYS GOTTEN INTO YOUR HEAD?

I WAS CATCHING TOADS ALL DAY. NO MISCHIEF MONKEYS GOT IN.

PLEASE SHOW DEBORA AND TEDDY TO A HUT WHERE THEY CAN REST.

GO EAT, BATHE, AND REFRESH YOUR-SELVES...

"...SOAK IN THE BEAUTY OF YOUR NEW HOME."

GLORFF!

YOU THINK WITH EVERYTHING GOING ON, MAYBE WE DON'T WANT TO *SHIT* ON THEIR HOSPITALITY?

THAT WADDLING PIRATE FUCK WAS CHIDING ME, DEBS.

DON'T BE FOOLED BY THEIR BULLSHIT-- GOT US *RIGHT* WHERE THEY WANT US.

THAT KOOKY BITCH IS A WARLORD, AND THESE PEOPLE ARE ANYTHING BUT PEACEFUL, HIPPY SAMURAI INTENT ON SPREADING GOOD VIBES AND DISCO CHEER.

OR MAYBE THERE IS NO WARLORD.

I DON'T TRUST HER.

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SCARED OF OTHER PEOPLE NOT LIKE YOU.

MOST PEOPLE WANT SIMPLE THINGS, TEDDY.

FOOD FOR THEIR FAMILIES, A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE.

DAVEY TRAUMA CLEARLY FED FLAK BULLSHIT ABOUTH THIS PLACE.

KAZUMI, I MEAN, SHE'S ***AMAZING.***

SHE HEALED ME, LED, WITH HER ***HANDS.***

THE FUCK?

DON'T BE A ***RUBE,*** DEBS.

KAZUMI HAS A KIND OF TECH THAT WORKS ***DESPITE*** THE EMP.

GONNA GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THAT.

THEN WE'RE GOING TO FIND WHATEVER'S GENERATING THE EMP, SHUT IT DOWN AN'...

AN' GO HOME AND GET--

GHOKLORF

LED?!

I-I'M NOT GETTING BETTER...

I NEED JUICE...

TAKE ME... TAKE...

LED?!

SOMEBODY HELP!

WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM?

HE'S BEEN DETOXING SINCE WE LEFT L.A.--I THOUGHT HE WAS GETTING BETTER, BUT--

YOUR *FUCKIN'* HANDS OFF ME!

--HE ISN'T.

*DON'T NEED HER HELP!*

SWING!

*THE FUCK AWAY!*

MISS!

OH, MY.

YOU CAN HELP HIM, RIGHT? THE WAY YOU HELPED ME?

I *CAN* REVERSE THE ENTROPY WITHIN.

I *CANNOT* UNDO THE ADDICTION--

--THAT IS A LONGER BATTLE THAT ONLY *HE* CAN FIGHT.

=KOFF= I-I JUST WANT TO GO HOME, DEBBIE... PLEASE, ANGEL...

...I NEED THE JUICE.

TAKE ME AWAY FROM THIS FUCKIN' PLACE...

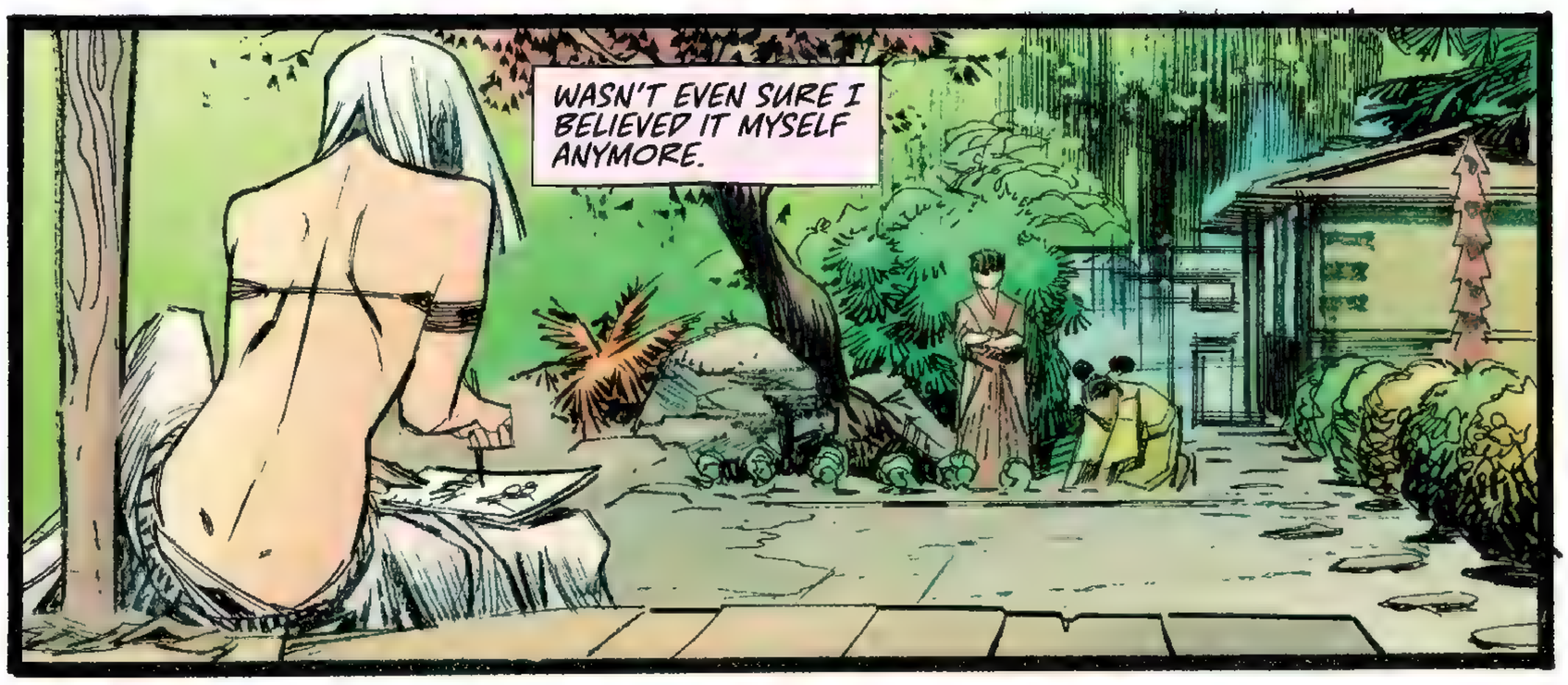
IT'S NOT HIS FAULT, YOU KNOW?

HE HAD A ROUGH CHILDHOOD, AND HE GOT STRUNG OUT BECAUSE...

HE'S A GOOD PERSON.

I PROMISE--

--HE'S WORTH SAVING.




HE'D PUSHED ME AS FAR AS I COULD TAKE AND IF HE HADN'T GOTTEN BETTER... WELL...

THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THAT.

HE'S BEEN IN A DEEP SLEEP FOR TWO WEEKS SINCE KAZUMI TOUCHED HIM. GIVEN ME TIME TO THINK.

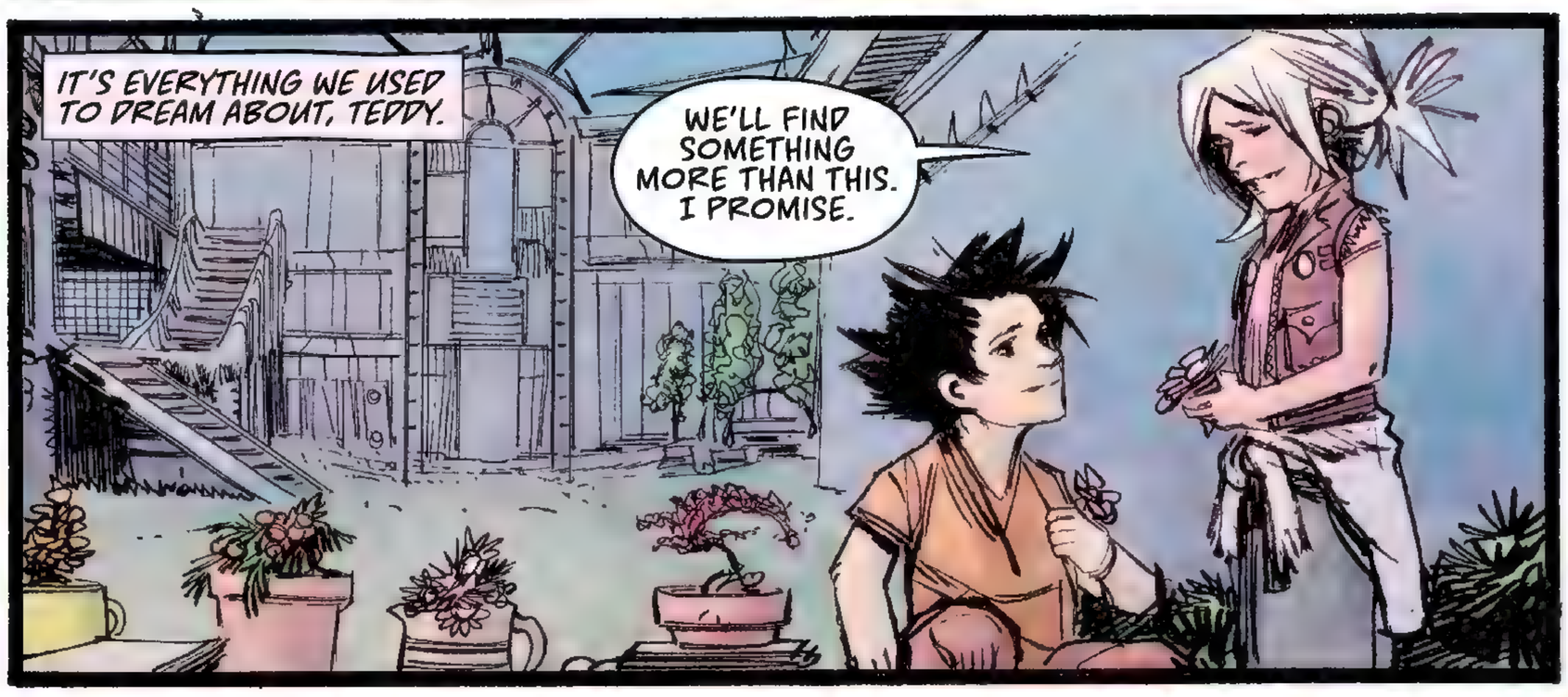
YOU LOVE SOMEONE LONG ENOUGH YOU BEGIN TO WONDER, "WHY?" IS IT JUST FAMILIARITY? THE FACT THEY'VE BEEN FIXTURES IN YOUR LITTLE STORY FOR LONG ENOUGH...

OR DO WE FEAR CHANGE SO MUCH THAT WE PRETEND?

THE PEOPLE HERE DON'T PRETEND. THEY'RE GENUINELY KIND AND GENEROUS TO EACH OTHER.

KAZUMI BELIEVES THAT GIVEN A CHOICE PEOPLE WILL BEND TOWARDS THE LIGHT.

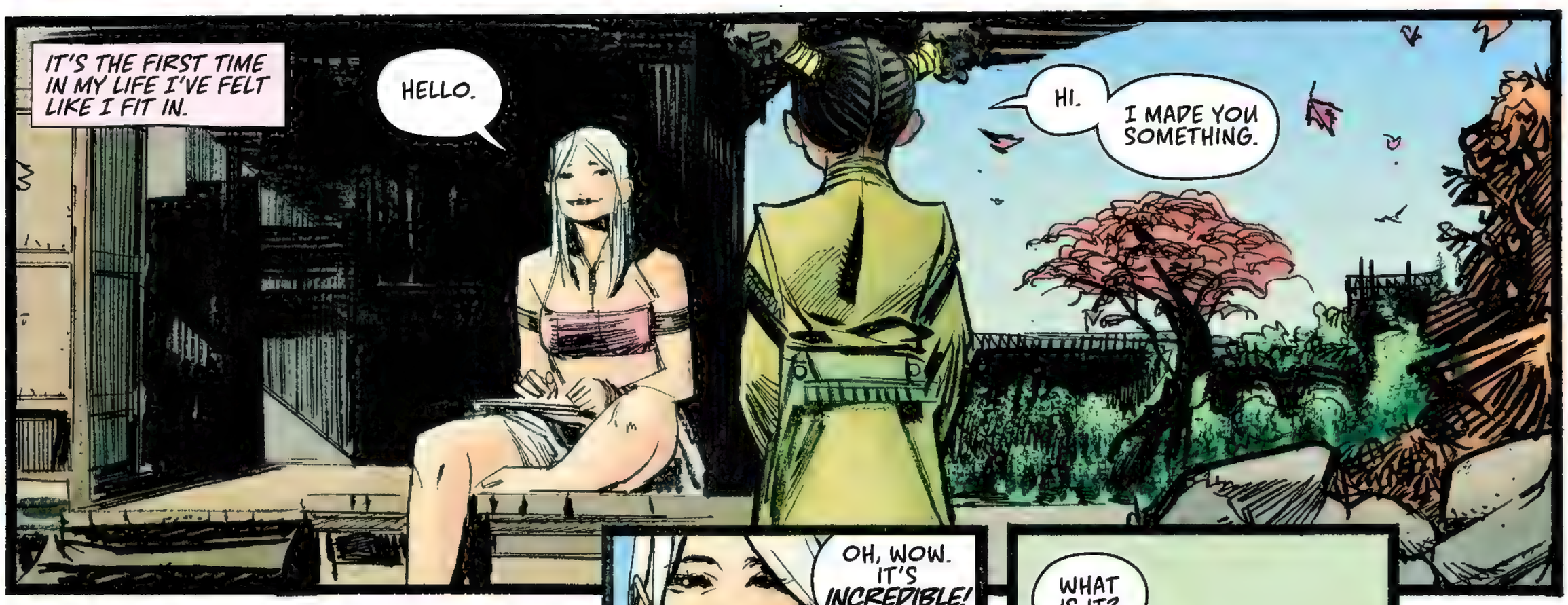
SEEING THIS PLACE, IT'S HARD TO ARGUE.

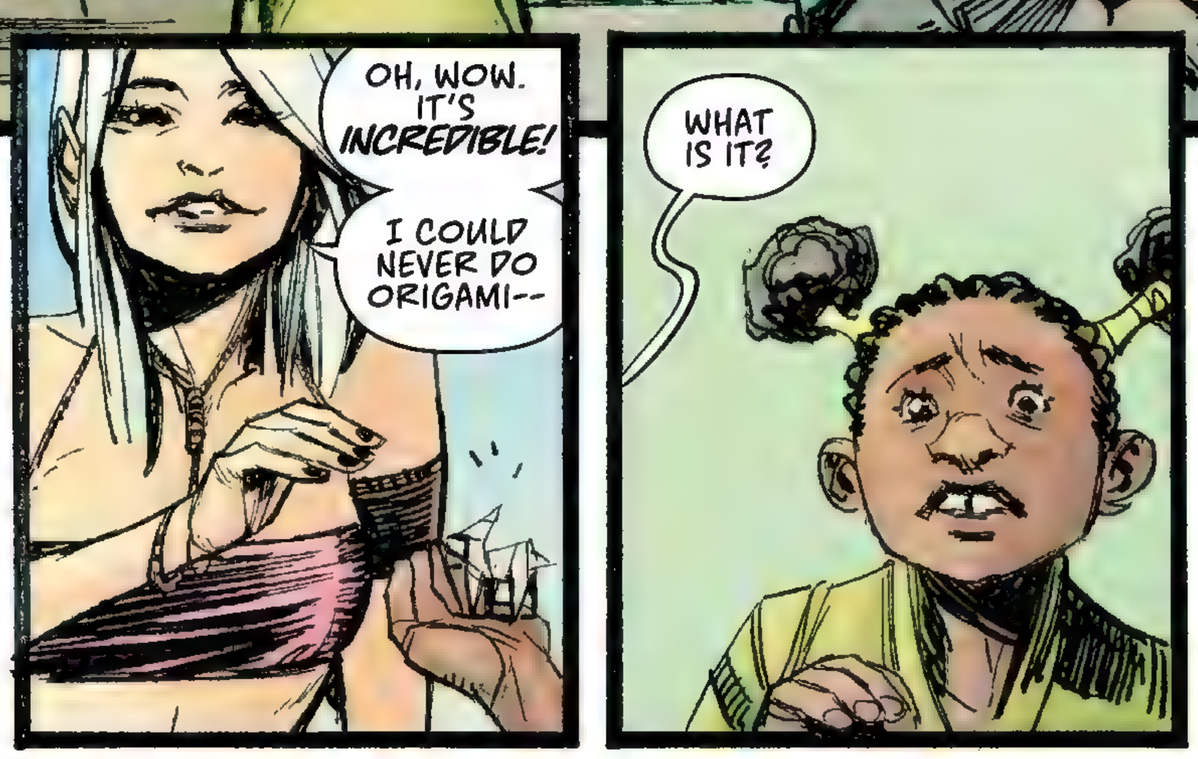



THE KIND OF PLACE KIDS DREAM OF ESCAPING TO.

EVEN IF THERE'S NO REAL HOPE THAT THEY'LL EVER FIND IT.

WHICH MAKES THIS ALL THE MORE AMAZING.



KIDS LOVE ME.

YOU'RE AWAKE!

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

LIKE I'M SEEING YOU WITH MY OWN EYES FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS...

I'D FORGOTTEN HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU ARE.

FUCKIN' A.

DEBBIE, I-I NEVER...

SHUT UP.

JUST SHUT UP.

WHATEVER KAZUMI DID, IT **WORKED.** HE'S BETTER WEEK BY WEEK.

HE GOES TO BED WITHOUT SLEEPING PILLS. HE WAKES WITHOUT CAFFEINE. NO MORE OUTBURSTS. NO MORE RAGE.

LED DENT IS **GONE.**

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I GET TO SEE THE MAN TEDDY SHOULD HAVE BECOME.

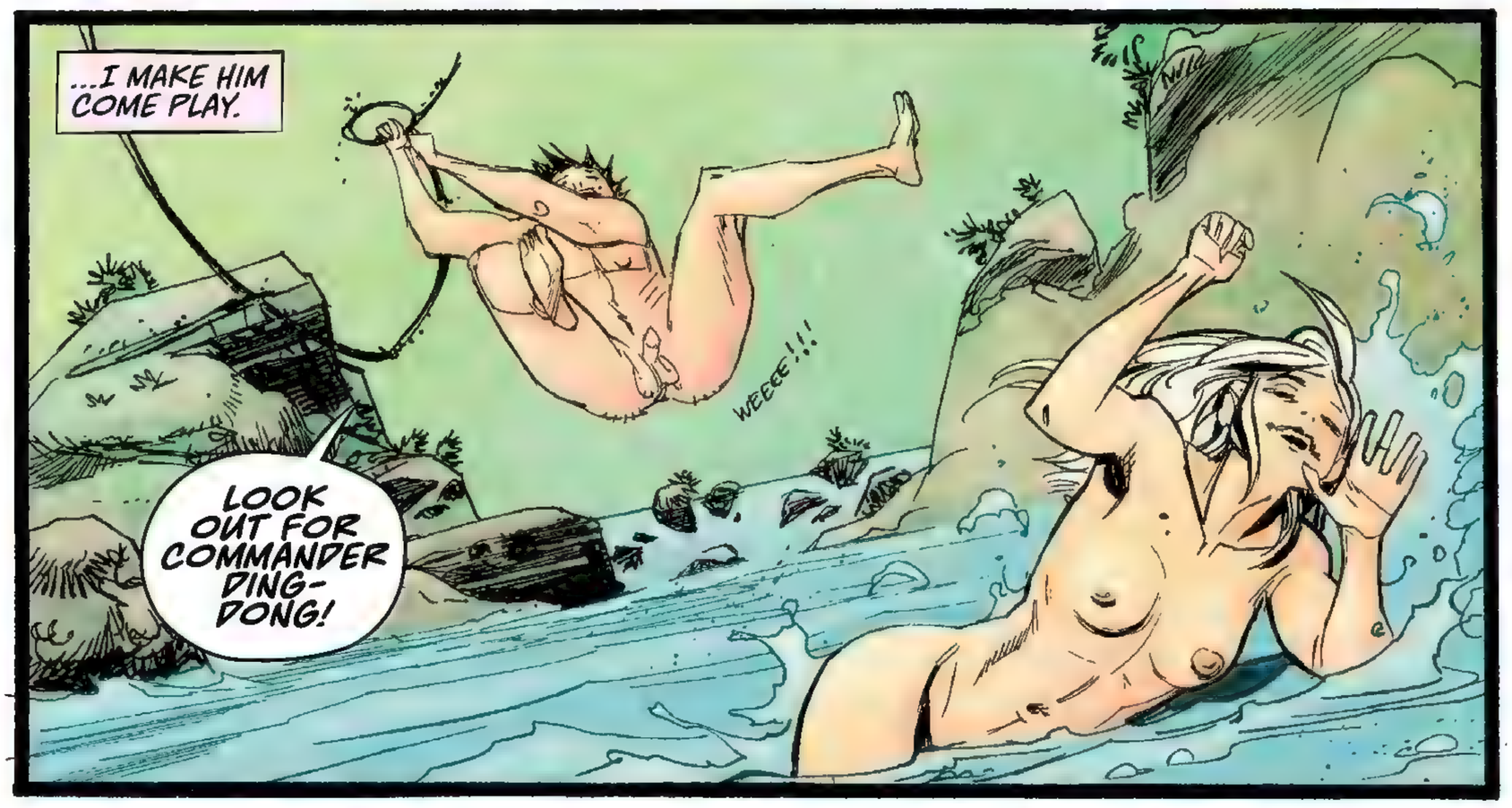
EVERYTHING I KNEW HE'D BE.

HE'S STILL AN ADOLESCENT, BUT IN A GOOD WAY. THE KIND THAT HAS SOME WONDERMENT LEFT, SOME AWE.

BUT STILL, I CAN SEE THE JITTERS. HE CAN'T HIDE HOW HE FIGHTS THE ADDICTION EVERY DAY.

ON GOOD DAYS, HE'S PATIENT, ABLE TO GET PAST IT, AND FOCUS ON HELPING AROUND TOWN.

ON BAD DAYS...




WE TAKE LONG WALKS AND TALK.

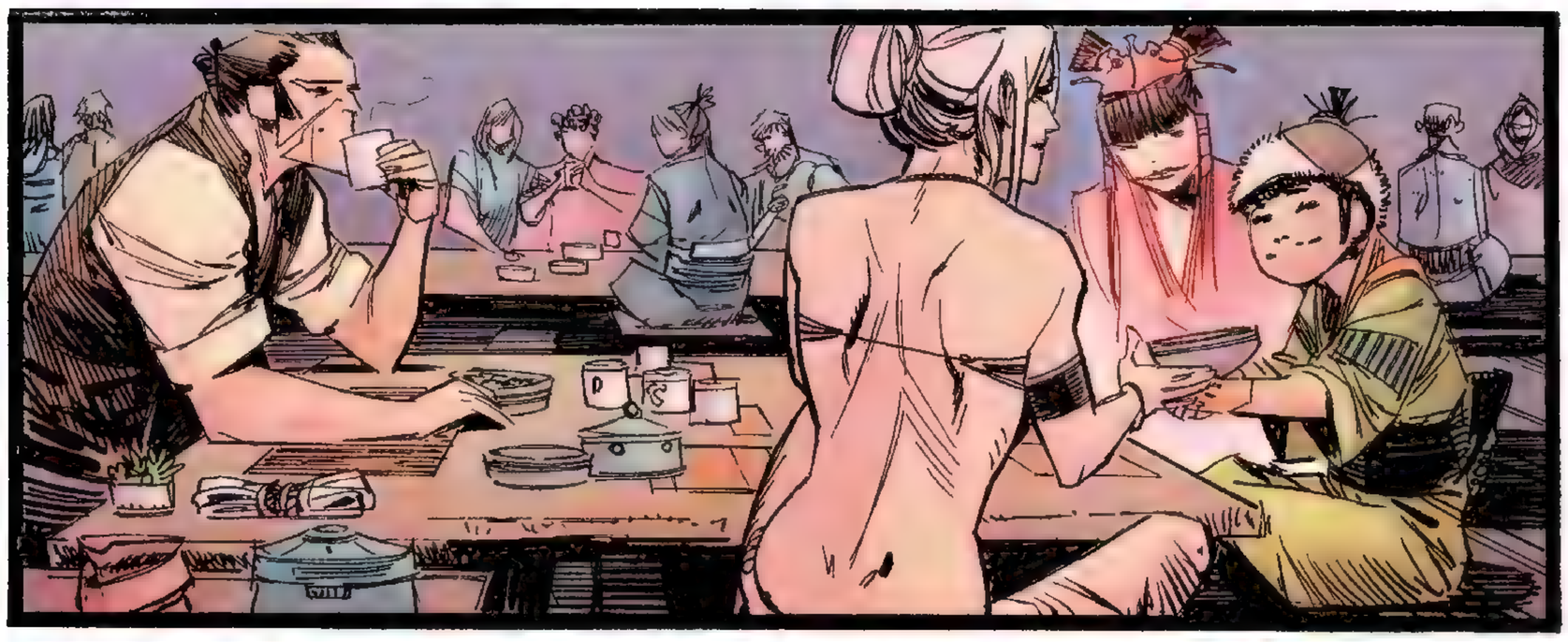
WE SWIM IN THE CREEK.

SUNBATHE ON THE SHORE.

WE RUN NAKED THROUGH THE FOREST.

AND WE FUCK.

A LOT.



TO BE ACCEPTED INTO THIS COMMUNITY--IT FIXES SO MANY OF THE CRACKS.

WE GROW AND PREPARE OUR OWN FOOD.

WE EAT TOGETHER AND LAUGH.

NO ONE DISTRACTED BY PHONES, NO ONE POLITICKING FOR MONEY OR STATURE. NO LOUD EGOS.

NO ONE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYONE ELSE...

HOW SWEET THE SIMPLICITY IS.

AND I'M SO HAPPY, I COULD SHIT.

YOU'RE GOING DOWN **HARD.**

A SAMURAI IS COURTEOUS TO ENEMIES AND DOES NOT NEED TO PROVE STRENGTH.

*THEY'RE TEACHING US USEFUL THINGS LIKE HOW TO RIDE A HORSE AND USE A SWORD.*

*BUT WITHOUT HIS TECH, LED IS WEAKER.*

A LOT.

LOSER TALK.

SAMURAI DEVELOP **POWER** FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL.

WHEREAS YOU SEEK IT TO ESCAPE A FEAR OF **WEAKNESS.**

SPIN MOVE!!!

*LEARNING ANYTHING TAKES HIM MUCH LONGER NOW.*

*HE CAN'T FOCUS.*

*FOR YEARS, THE NANOTECH DID ALL THE REMEMBERING FOR HIM.*

OOF--!

*NOW HIS MIND IS A MUSCLE IN ATROPHY.*

*HIS BODY CLUMSY AND SLOW.*

FUCKING BULLSHIT!

SNAP.

*ALL OF TEDDY'S WEAKNESSES WITH NONE OF LED'S STRENGTHS...*

HEY.

YOU OKAY?

I HAD THE DREAM AGAIN.

THE TECH BOYS WHO BEAT US UP?

IT'S MORE VIVID EVERY NIGHT.

I HEAR THEIR LAUGHS IN MY HEAD ALL FUCKIN' DAY.

YOU NEVER *REALLY* DEALT WITH IT.

I DEALT WITH IT THE ONLY WAY I KNEW HOW.

TO MAKE SURE IT NEVER HAPPENED AGAIN.

TO MAKE SURE I WAS NEVER WEAK.

THAT I COULD PROTECT YOU.

GUESS THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT SO WELL.

A MONTH CLEAN NOW.

TIME PASSES SLOWLY WHEN YOU'RE NOT FILLING EVERY SECOND UP WITH USELESS INFORMATION.

IT FORCES YOU TO SIT WITH YOUR EMOTIONS... TO BE A *HUMAN.*

I FORGOT HOW MUCH THAT *HURTS.*

IT'S WORTH IT.

MAYBE.

BUT AM I WORTH IT?

WHY DID YOU STAY WITH ME ALL THOSE YEARS, DEBBIE?

I WAS SO USED TO CHASING LOVE FROM SOMEONE UNWILLING TO GIVE IT...

...IT JUST FIT.

WHEN I THINK OF WHAT I PUT YOU THROUGH, DEBS...

...IT BREAKS MY HEART.

I WAS IN THERE WATCHING IT ALL.

I JUST...

I JUST STOPPED CARING.

SOMETIMES THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO GET BY.

WHEN I WAS A KID, MY DAD GOT ME A HAMSTER. HE SAID IT WAS ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY I COULD HANDLE.

THE THING KEPT ME UP ALL NIGHT RUNNING ON THE WHEEL IN ITS CAGE.

I REMEMBER WATCHING HIM RUN AROUND AND AROUND AND HOW ***MAD*** IT MADE ME.

DIDN'T HE KNOW WHAT A WASTE OF TIME IT WAS?

DID YOU KEEP HIM?

I FORGOT TO FEED HIM, AND HE DIED.

LIKE I FORGOT YOU.

LIKE I LEFT YOU RUNNING ON THAT WHEEL, STARVING.

DAD WAS RIGHT. I CAN'T HANDLE RESPONSIBILITY.

I MISSED MY ENTIRE LIFE, DEBBIE.

LIKE I WAS FROZEN AND WOKE UP TO FIND TEN YEARS JUST VANISHED.

NO MORE RUNNING ON THAT WHEEL.

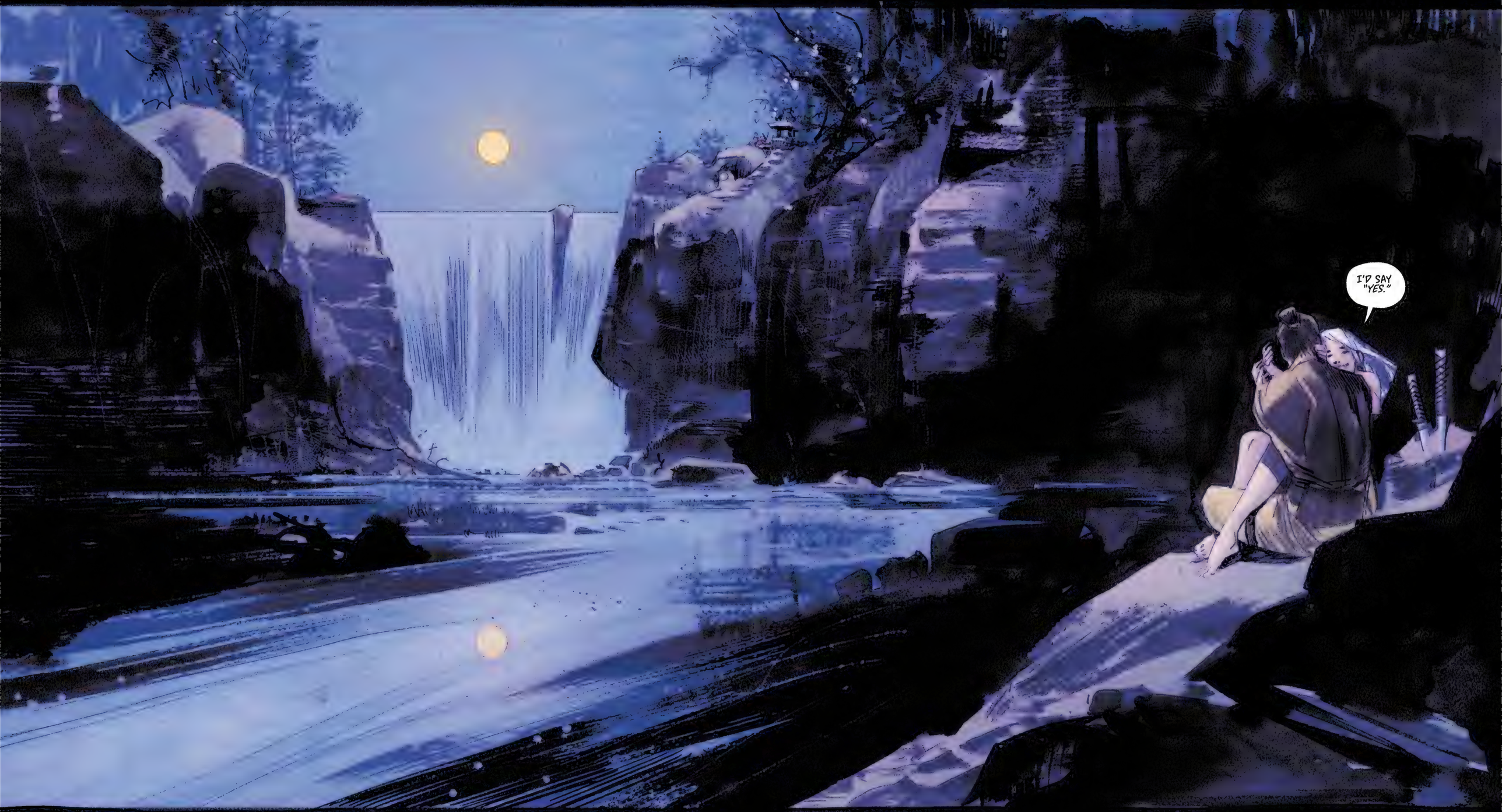
LET'S STAY HERE. HAVE A FAMILY. HAVE A NORMAL LIFE.

DEBS, WILL YOU...

YOU KNOW...

ARE YOU ASKING ME TO MARRY YOU?

IT'S ARCANE, I KNOW, BUT, IF I WAS...


I'D SAY "YES."

SAMURAI ARE BORN TO DIE.

DEATH IS NOT A CURSE TO BE AVOIDED--

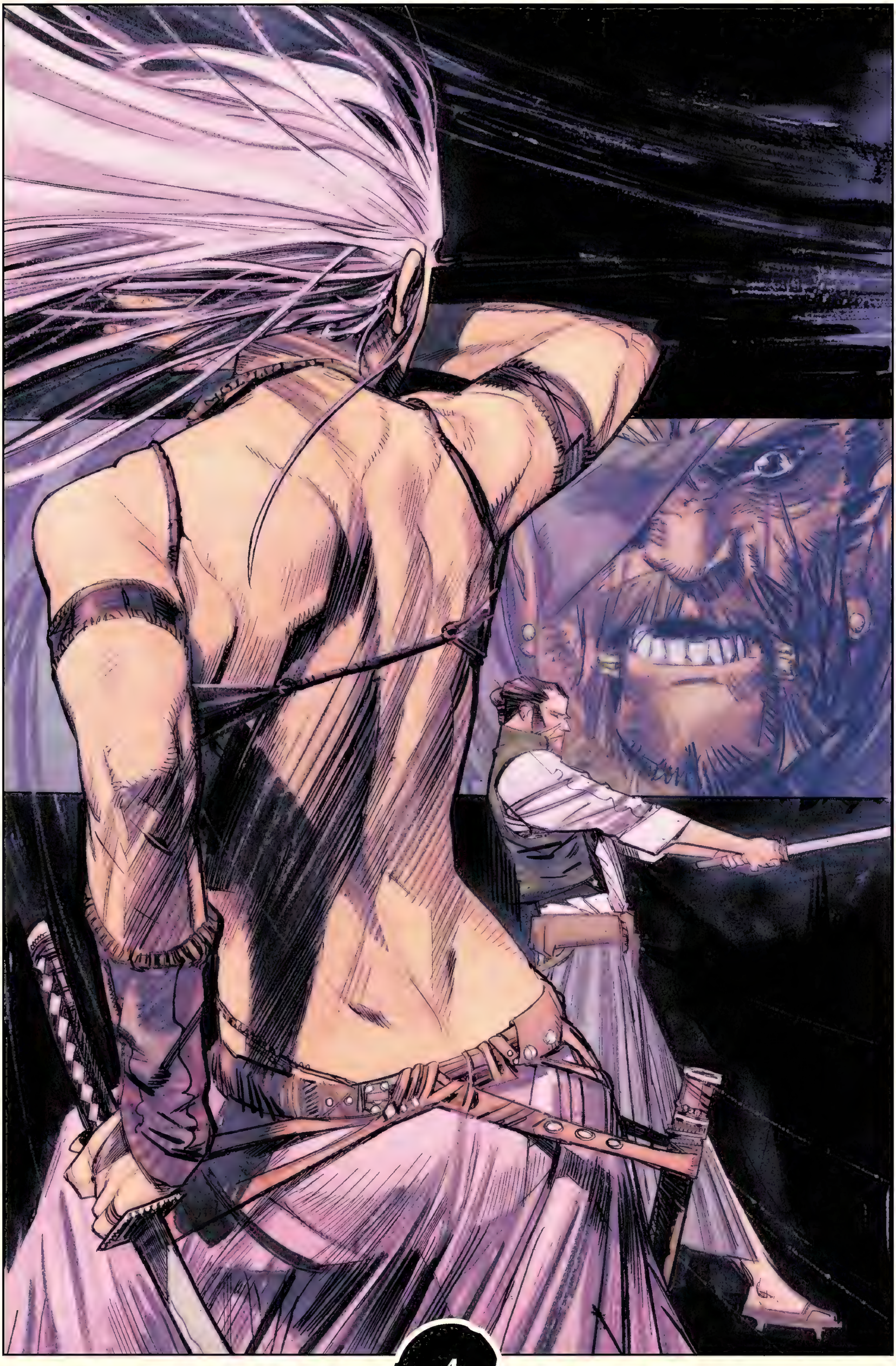
--BUT THE NATURAL END OF ALL LIFE.

DEATH IS NOT ETERNAL--

DISHONOR IS.

AS YOU'LL SOON SEE, CONSTABLE.

AS YOU'LL SOON SEE.



I'M FALLING THROUGH LOS ANGELES AND JOLT AWAKE BEFORE HITTING THE GROUND.

THE STENCH OF HOME FADES INTO VANILLA AND RASPBERRY MIGNONETTES.

THE SCREAMS OF THE STARVING GIVE WAY TO TEDDY'S HEART BEATING AND THE TRICKLE OF CLEAN WATER.

THE SWEETEST REALIZATION-- IT WAS JUST A DREAM-- WE'RE NOT THERE.

AND I HAVE EVERYTHING I EVER WANTED.

BAD DREAM?

OVER NOW.

YEAH, HAD ONE OF MY OWN. ABOUT THE LAST TIME I SAW MY DAD.

HE'D BEEN JACKED IN FOR YEARS BY THE END, ONLY CAME OUT TO REBOOT.

NORMALLY WOULDN'T ACKNOWLEDGE ME WHEN HE DID.

BUT THIS TIME...

HE LOOKED RIGHT AT ME.

ASKED ME TO HELP HIM UP.

TO THE OLD PHOTO ALBUMS MOM HAD PRINTED.

WE SAT TOGETHER LOOKING AT PICTURES OF THE TRIP WE TOOK TO YUMA BEACH WHERE NANA LIVED.

HE SAID THE ALBUMS WERE FOR ME, REMINDERS THAT HE WASN'T ALL BAD.

HE KNEW HE WASN'T COMING OUT AGAIN. AND HE DIDN'T.

I'M SORRY, BABY, BUT IT'S HARD TO TAKE YOUR EMOTIONAL RECOLLECTIONS SERIOUSLY WHILE YOUR DICK SHRINKS UP IN FRONT OF ME.

YEAH, IT GETS COLD ENOUGH THAT HE'LL SHRIVEL UP INTO MY TORSO LIKE A FRIGHTENED TORTOISE.

DINK.

IT'S A GOOD DICK. JUST BREAKING THE TENSION.

I KNOW.

IT'S JUST... THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS I CAN REMEMBER THOSE PICTURES.

THEY'RE ALL I CAN RECALL FROM MY CHILDHOOD.

THAT'S BEAUTIFUL, TEDDY.

IT JUST MAKES ME SAD.

MAKES ME THINK ABOUT ALL THE TIME WE *DIDN'T* HAVE TOGETHER.

ALL THE MOMENTS HE GAVE AWAY.

A *REAL* CRIME, THAT.

WHEN SOMEONE *STEALS* BIG PIECES OF YOUR LIFE-- NO WORSE THING.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, YOU *PERVERT?*

JUST AGREEING-- NOTHING HAUNTS A MAN LIKE WHAT *COULD* HAVE BEEN.

NO OTHER ACHE FOLLOWS YOU *QUITE* THE SAME.

YOU DON'T GET THE FUCK BACK, YOU'LL FEEL A WORSE ACHE.

SHWP

I WAS A TROUBLED CHILD. WE ALL WERE IN THAT TOXIC WASTELAND, RIGHT, LED?

SO WHEN MY BIG BROTHER JIMMY OFFERED ME A SPOT IN HIS GANG, WELL...

IT WAS *SAFETY,* RIGHT? PRIDE. SOME FUCKIN' *ACCEPTANCE.*

SURE, WE WERE UP TO MISCHIEF.

PRANKS DESIGNED TO HUMILIATE, MOSTLY.

MISGUIDED YOUTHS, IN A WORLD THAT HAD NO PLACE FOR US. WHAT WE DID WAS *CERTAINLY* WRONG...

"...BUT WE SURE AS SHIT DIDN'T DESERVE THE PUNISHMENT YOU DOLED OUT, CONSTABLE.

"WE'D MET VICIOUS PIGS BEFORE."

*RUN-- IT'S A FUCKIN' PEELER!*

"BUT NOTHING LIKE *YOU.*

SHURKK

"NO WARNING GIVEN.

"ANTHONY AND LINDA, JUST GONE IN A RED MIST."

"I TURNED AROUND TO GIVE MYSELF UP--

"--IN TIME TO SEE YOU TEAR JIMMY'S ARM FROM ITS SOCKET."

GHAGARGH--!

YOU... GOT THE WRONG GUY.

HE STUTTERS.

BARELY ABLE TO SELL THE LIE TO HIMSELF.

WE WERE JUST KIDS.

BUT NOT ANYMORE.

NOW WE ARE ONI.

BROKEN AND *REBORN.*

GHOSTS CURSED BY DREAMS OF REVENGE.

I RUSH.

WISE TEDDY FOLLOWS.

NO WAY THROUGH THIS WITHOUT A SCRAP.

WE DIDN'T COME HUNTIN' YOU--

--BUT I'LL BE *FUCKED* BEFORE I LET YOU *POISON* THIS PLACE!

YOU'LL BE FUCKED EITHER WAY, STUMPS.

TWNG

HNG--!

KWUK

STAY CALM, TEDDY.

TWP

TWNG

REMEMBER, YOU'RE WEAKER NOW.

AND YOUR DICK IS ALL SHRIVELED UP.

YOU KNOW ME, DEBS...

I'M A GROWER--

--NOT A SHOWER.

UNGG!

THEN *SHOW* US, CONSTABLE.

FACE THE THUNDER OF YOUR PAST!

HOOF!

YOU--YOU WERE THE ONES WHO BEAT TEDDY AND FILMED IT!

SPLSH

WE WERE JUST KIDS-- WHAT WE DID WAS WRONG.

BUT WHAT HE DID TO US...

"...WAS PURE *MALEVOLENCE.*

"I WATCHED AS HE MERCILESSLY MOVED THROUGH MY FRIENDS.

"TOOK HIS TIME.

"SAVORED THE SCREAMING."

WHO'S THE PUSSY NOW?!

IT WAS YOUR BEATING THAT DROVE HIM TO THE CONSTABLES--

SLICE

KREEEE--

PLOSSH

YOU'LL NOT TAKE HIM AGAIN!

GAK--

TWUNK

FEAR NOT-- YOU WILL *SHARE* HIS FATE!

YERAGH!

HOW IS THIS AMBUSH ANY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT LED DID?!

PLWOK

HURK--!

SHKK

LED WAS A FUCK--

"WE COME TO PREVENT HIM FROM KILLING AGAIN.

"THIS VENGEFUL DEMON WHO SCORCHED MY FACE ON THE FLAMES OF MY BROTHER'S FLESH."

YERAGH!

HE LAUGHED AS I BURNED!

NOT LAUGHIN' NOW, ARE YA?!

YERAAGGH-o!

SHWKK

=GASP=

THE CURRENT!

SHNK

AND WHEN ONE SCRAWNY KID HIT BACK--

--YOU CUNTS FOUND ALL THIS MORALITY IN VICTIMHOOD.

BUT YOU'RE NOT THE VICTIMS--

YOU PREACH A GOOD FUCKIN' YARN--BUT YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER MOB HIGH FROM FIGHTING A FIXED MATCH.

--JUST SOME THUGS WHO BEAT ME IN FRONT OF MY GIRL!

BEAT ME AND FILMED IT FOR FAME AND PROFIT!

HNG!

SO YOU DON'T LIKE HOW I RESPONDED?

TNG

TOO FUCKING BAD.

SHLRK

TEDDY--

--BEHIND YOU!

KLNG

TEDDY!

=KOFF=

DO YOU FEEL IT AGAIN, CONSTABLE? THE *HELPLESSNESS?*

UP AGAINST SOMETHING YOU HAVE NO POWER TO STOP?

YEAH, LIKE THE FIRST TIME WE MET.

GUESS WE BOTH MADE MISTAKES.

SPLSHH

WE BOTH LEFT *SURVIVORS.*

TWG

FWUK

I AM THE FIST OF JUSTICE!

BULLSHIT. THIS IS NO JUSTICE.

THIS IS *PETTY* REVENGE-- *AND THAT'S ALL IT IS.*

CALL IT WHAT YOU WANT, CONSTABLE.

I'LL FUCKIN' TAKE IT.

SHRKK

URKK--!

MY BROTHER, OL' JIMMY, YOU KNOW HE SURVIVED WHAT YOU DID TO HIM?

FUCKIN' *INCREDIBLE*, RIGHT?

BURNT UP, MISSING BOTH ARMS--BUT THE LAD WAS MADE OF STERN MATERIALS.

=CHOKK!=

TO BE FAIR, WASN'T *MUCH* OF A LIFE. BATHED BY MOM. FED THROUGH A TUBE.

COUPLE WEEKS IN, JIMMY HAD ENOUGH.

MOM STEPPED OUT FOR A MINUTE, AN' JIMMY DROWNED HIMSELF IN THE TUB.

SHE WAS SO RELIEVED TO HAVE HER SON SURVIVE YOUR BRUTALITY ONLY TO FIND HIM FACEDOWN IN A POOL OF HIS OWN FILTH.

JIMMY WAS A GOOD KID. I TELL YOU THIS SO YOU'LL GET A CLEAR PICTURE OF HIM.

IT'S FITTING FOR YOU TO DIE REMEMBERIN' HIS FACE.

BAD NEWS.

I DON'T REMEMBER A *FUCKIN'* THING.

I DO.

KRAK!

AND YOU ALLOW THAT MEMORY TO CURSE ALL WE BELIEVE!

ALL THESE YEARS! ALL THIS TIME WITH US-- HAVE YOU LEARNED ***NOTHING?!***

YOU ONLY LIVE BY THE GRACE OF OUR CLAN'S TENANT OF ***FORGIVENESS!***

I HAVE ONLY ONE JUDGE OF MY HONOR-- ***MYSELF.***

YOUR JUDGMENT IS ***SHIT!***

RECTITUDE IS THE BONE THAT GIVES FIRMNESS AND STATURE.

WITHOUT DECENCY, NEITHER TALENT NOR LEARNING CAN MAKE THE HUMAN FRAME INTO A SAMURAI.

I WITHDRAW MY HOSPITALITY.

YOU ARE NO LONGER WELCOME HERE.

KAZUMI SENSEI-- *PLEASE!*

IT WAS VENGEANCE, I *CONFESS*-- BUT IT WAS ALSO IN SERVICE TO THE *CLAN!*

*IT WAS PROTECTION!*

THESE FUCKS DIDN'T COME HERE FOR DELIVERANCE!

YOU BROKE YOUR PLEDGE.

*FUCK THE PLEDGE!*

THEY'LL TEAR DOWN ALL WE'VE BUILT!

ONE INVESTED WITH THE POWER TO COMMAND AND THE POWER TO KILL IS EXPECTED TO DEMONSTRATE EQUALLY THE POWERS OF *MERCY.*

LOVE, MAGNANIMITY, AFFECTION FOR OTHERS, SYMPATHY, AND PITY ARE THE HIGHEST ATTRIBUTES OF THE HUMAN SOUL.

THE HIGHEST REQUIREMENT OF A RULER IS *BENEVOLENCE.*

I WELCOMED THEM WITH THIS PROMISE.

YOU MADE ME A LIAR.

SHRUK

GUESS I AIN'T NO SAMURAI.

YOU SON OF A BITCH!

SHE SAVED US!

WHUP!

GHRAGH!

I TRIED IT HER WAY.

SHKWUK

SENSEI!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

AH, MOTHER FU--

SHWUNK
SHWUNK
SHWUNK

PLOOSH

OUR LIGHT IS EXTINGUISHED.

KAZUMI?!

THE WORK OF *YOUR* MAN.

NO-- WE WERE *AMBUSHED*-- HE WOULDN'T--

D- DEBORA...?

SHE'S STILL ALIVE.

WE HAVE TO GET HER TO TOWN!

WHERE'S TEDDY?

VACATION ALL I EVER WANTED...

VACATION... HAPPY TO GET AWAY...

=KOFF=

I'M SORRY, DEBS.

I TRIED.

WHATEVER IT'S WORTH.

YOU GOTTA UNDERSTAND =KOFF=

...ONLY WAY I'M GETTIN' THROUGH THIS...

JUST ENOUGH TO GET ME RIGHT...

JUST ONE FIX, DEBS...

NO TECH.

I PROMISE.

I PROMISE.

CRAK!

WAY TO BRO ON THE PONYTAIL, DOUCHEBAG.

REBOOTING.....

LIVE

FLAK WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT US! BUT NOT ME, I **KNEW** YOU'D BE BACK ONLINE.

GET YOUR ASS IN GEAR, LED--

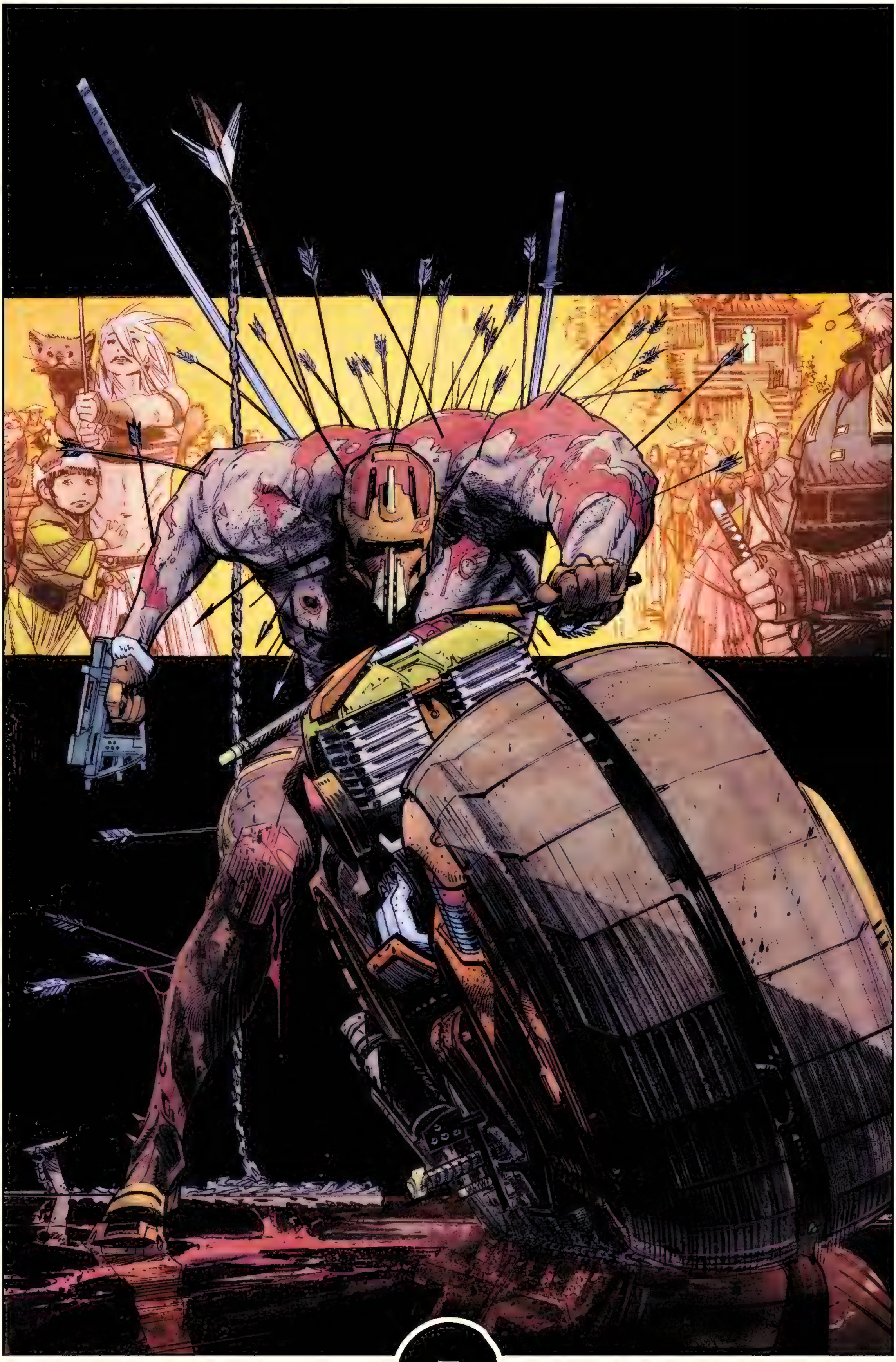
YOU'RE LATE FOR WORK.

DAMAGE

GPS

BATTERY...

SEAN MURPHY
HOLLINGSWORTH



SOMEHOW KAZUMI HOLDS ON.

DESPERATE TO ENSURE THIS HORROR NOT TAINT HER ONLY SON.

HER PEACEFUL, FORGIVING NATURE IS BEAUTIFUL...

...I WISH I COULD SHARE IN IT.

ABOVE ALL ELSE, SEEK OUT *HONEST* PEOPLE, MY SON.

PAINFUL TRUTH IS SUPERIOR TO COMFORTABLE LIES.

DO NOT GROW BITTER OVER THIS, TAKARA...

RESENTMENT WILL ERODE YOU.

MAMA =SOB= PLEASE STAY...

I CANNOT, MY LOVE. YOU MUST TURN MY PASSING INTO YOUR STRENGTH.

YOU MUST ALL REDOUBLE YOUR COMMITMENT TO PURITY AND COMPASSION.

GROW STRONG AS YOU FORGIVE THOSE WHO HAVE WRONGED YOU.

PROTECT HIM, JEROME.

TEACH OUR SON.

I WILL, MY LIGHT.

DEBORA...

SENSEI.

TAKE THIS...

...YOU MUST CARRY ON... LEAD THE CLAN.

YOUR BELIEF IN OUR SHARED DREAM, YOUR NEED FOR IT, RUNS DEEPER THAN IN ANY OTHER.

I CAN'T--

I-I'M NOT LIKE YOU, I'M NOT...

YOU ARE. YOU HAVE NEVER SUCCUMBED TO TECHNOLOGY.

YOUR BODY AND MIND ARE CLEAN AND STRONG.

THIS GARDEN CAN ONLY EXIST WITH THE PROTECTION OF AN EMP...

I NO LONGER HAVE THE STRENGTH TO BROADCAST IT.

YOU?

"I WAS A PART OF PROJECT AKATA, TASKED TO CREATE SOLDIERS ABLE TO DECIMATE ANY NATION'S POWER GRID, TO COMMUNICATE WITH ANIMAL AND PLANT LIFE. TO KILL OFF LIVESTOCK AND CROPS.

"THE SERUM WE CREATED USES THE HOST'S OWN ELECTRICAL SYSTEM TO POWER THESE ABILITIES... BUT RATHER THAN USE IT TO PILFER RESOURCES FROM OTHER NATIONS, I COULD SEE IT USED TO FIX OUR OWN.

"AND I WAS RIGHT..."

...I PASS IT TO YOU.

MAMA?

HAND OVER THAT BLADE.

MY WIFE'S FEVER BROUGHT ON DELUSION. *YOU* WILL *NOT* LEAD US.

*YOU* HAVE BROUGHT ONLY SADNESS TO OUR HOME.

YOUR MAN KILLED MY WIFE.

LEFT OUR VILLAGE VULNERABLE TO ATTACK. NOW TELL US--

WHERE DOES YOUR DOG HIDE?!

NO--IT WASN'T TEDDY!

WE WERE ATTACKED-- BY MEMBERS OF *YOUR* CLAN!

*WHY* WOULD ANY OF MY CLAN ATTACK YOU? *WHY BREAK THEIR VOWS?!*

JEROME!

GATHER YOUR SAMURAI!

WE ARE *BESIEGED!*

I KNOW IT BEFORE HE FINISHES--

TEDDY IS DEAD.

FOR GOOD THIS TIME.

FLAK WAS WORRIED YOU'D GONE **SOFT**--

HE DIDN'T THINK YOU HAD IT IN YA.

I TOLD HIM, OL' CONSTABLE LED DENT **ALWAYS** COMES THROUGH.

AND YOU WON ME THE BET, BUDDY, GOT THAT EMP DOWN.

I...

SHH-- YOU JUST **RELAX**-- DON'T **THINK** TOO MUCH.

SINK BACK INTO THE FEED--

"--YOUR PAL DAVEY TRAUMA'S GONNA SHERPA YOU THROUGH THIS."

GHRAGH-=!

FWOOOOSH

NO!

THAT TURBO JUICE BLASTING THROUGH YOUR VEINS FEELS SWEET, RIGHT?

FILL UP ON THE BIG-TIME MONKEY MAGIC YOU LOVE AND NEED!

HNG!

GAKK!

FWOOOSH

HO-SHIT! DENT IS BACK IN THE GAME!

OH FLEEK, BRO!

UNGF--

BRAKKAHKKA

STOP!

THESE PEOPLE ARE OUR FAMILY, TEDDY--

TEDDY AIN'T HOME, BAE.

BRAKKAHKKA

THAT SHRILL VOICE.

TURNS ME TO STONE.

DAVEY...

AH, YOU REMEMBERED.

FUNNY THING-- I'M ONLY HERE IN MR. FLAK'S EMPLOY BECAUSE OF **YOU**, PUSSYCAT.

FUCKING KARMIC, RIGHT?

I... I DON'T WANT...

WHAT YOU WANT DON'T MATTER, LED-O.

STAND MY GROUND--

--IF HE KILLS ME, THEN I'M RIGHT, HE'S **GONE.**

IF HE TURNS--

--THERE'S **HOPE.**

C'MON! YOU'RE KILLING ME, SMALLS!

FINE, YOU WANT TO WRESTLE ME FOR CONTROL?

I'VE SEEN WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR ADRENALINE IS MAXED OUT--

SKREEEECH-

NOW LET **THEM** SEE.

BRAKKA BRAKKA

KLKK

**FUCKERS OF LOS ANGLES!**

YOUR MAN DAVEY TRAUMA HERE, BROADCASTING **LIVE** FROM THE GREEN GARDENS OF TOKYO, WHERE GREEDY ELITISTS HIDE AWAY THE NATURAL RESOURCES YOU ALL **DESERVE!**

BUT CONSTABLE LED DENT AIN'T GONNA STAND FOR THAT!

YOUR **HOMETOWN HERO** IS FIGHTING TO SECURE THE GOODS THESE SWINE HAVE BEEN **HOARDING!**

HE'S LISTENING NOW--

SUNSET CANAL

SINKHOLE

"--SO LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE BOY!"

COME, TAKARA-- WE HAVE TO GO **RIGHT NOW.**

MAMA--

SHE'S GONE, TAKARA--BUT I PROMISE TO KEEP YOU **SAFE.**

SCREAMS OUTSIDE--

I DID THIS--

BROUGHT THIS ANIMAL INTO THEIR HOME--

PROMISED HE'D BEHAVE--

EVERY BITE HE TAKES--

GO TO THE TOP FLOOR-- YOU'LL BE SAFE--

--EVERY SCREAM--

--MY FAULT.

SKRASH

UGHNG--

NEVER CONSIDERED THE RISK TO THEM--

HOLD ON!

TNK

TNK

TNK

--AND WHAT WE **NEEDED.**

MY MIND ON WHAT I WANTED--

THEY TOOK US IN--

--TREATED US LIKE **FAMILY**--

AND I BROUGHT A TIME BOMB INTO THEIR HOME.

GRA-BWOOOM

FWK SHK SNK FWK SHK SNK

FANTASTIC! MORE EXPLOSIONS! STILL GOT RATINGS TO CONSIDER!

KEEPS THE DINGDONGS BACK HOME RIVETED AND ROOTING FOR--

YOU GUYS FOR **REAL** WITH THIS SHIT?

LED? WHERE YOU GOING, HOMIE?

YOU'RE NOT RUNNIN'--YOU GOTTA HELP ME HERE--QUIT FIGHTIN' ME--

FLAK'S GOT US IN A **PICKLE**--

FOR KAZUMI!

WE FUCK THIS UP, YOUR JUICE GOES AWAY--

--AN' MY BRAIN GETS ERASED.

SO WE GOTTA GIVE THIS ONE HUNDO P., YOS.

YRAGH!

KNOK!

LOOK OUT! HE'S--

LEAP.

TOSS

FLIP.

SHUCK!

SHLPP

OOF--!

YOU MURDERED MY WIFE.

BUT YOU **WILL NOT** TAKE THE HOME WE BUILT.

LEASE IS UP, SCRUFFY.

MY BOSS BOUGHT THE PROPERTY, SO YOU HIPPIES ARE SQUATTING.

WE WILL **DIE** BEFORE LEAVING OUR LAND.

EXACTLY.

TNK

PWOK

TWUD

BLAMM BLAMM

OOF--!

I'LL BE HONEST--

HURRY, TAKARA-- WE HAVE TO KEEP MOVING!

PAPA?

GHAA--

-- I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT FLAK'S PLANS--

--I'M A SIMPLE GUY, SIMPLE DESIRES--

AARGHHGHG--!

KLUPP

--I LIVE TO TURN SHIT UP!

PAPA!

DON'T LOOK!

DON'T TURN AROUND!

DAVEY'S DEMENTED LAUGH FILLS THE AIR--

--IT'S ALL JUST A GAME TO HIM.

IF I DON'T STOP HIM--

HE'LL KILL THEM ALL.

WHERE IS THE BUNKER, TAKARA?!

IN THE STORAGE ROOM!

MAMA KEPT IT HIDDEN-- TOLD ME TO ONLY GO DOWN IN AN EMERGENCY!

THIS IS THAT.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'LL BE BACK.

I'LL BE ALONE--

I'LL COME BACK FOR YOU.

I PROMISE.

OKAY, PAL. DOIN' GREAT. NOW, ONE LAST LITTLE THING.

IT'S HARD TO DO SOME JOBS, RIGHT?

YOU SEE THE ETHICS IN A THING AND MAYBE WANT TO STAND UP AND FIGHT THE MAN.

BUT WE ALL KNOW THE MAN **WON** THIS ONE. **LONG** TIME AGO.

SO YOU DO YOUR PART--NO MATTER **HOW** MUCH YOU HATE IT. THAT'S WHAT A **MAN** DOES.

YOU JOIN THE GROUP AND GET IN LINE.

AND WHEN YOU DO, THE GROUP HELPS YOU--

THAT'S WHY I'M HERE-- TO **HELP**.

NOW, DON'T THINK-- JUST SET THE TIMER AND COME HOME TO US.

DEEP

THIS WAS OUR GARDEN--

HELP ME SAVE IT!

TWANG

ALL THIS PLACE HAS SHOWN **LEO** IS THAT WITHOUT THE TECH HE'S **WEAK** AND VULNERABLE.

BACK IN L.A., HE'S A **GOD**.

BUT HE LIKES YOU. YOU ALWAYS HELPED KEEP HIM IN LINE.

SO WE'LL LET HIM HAVE A **TROPHY**.

NO! STOP!

VRROOOSH

EVERYONE RUSHING INTO THE VILLAGE.

FIGHTING THE FIRE-- SAVING THEIR NEIGHBORS' HOMES--

NO WAY TO WARN THEM ABOUT THE BOMB--

REST EASY.

THE BOMB ISN'T GOING TO TOXIC UP THE ENVIRONMENT.

IT FLASH-FRIES ORGANIC COMPOUNDS, BUT IT'LL ALL GROW BACK--

--JUST WITHOUT SO MANY SAMURAI COSPLAYERS.

TAKARA LOCKED IN THE BUNKER--

--ALONE.

WAITING FOR ME.

CHNK

WHEN THE BOMB GOES OFF.

GLURK.

HE WON'T BE ALONE.

THE BOMB WON'T GO OFF.

SKREE-KWOOM

RUN!
THERE'S A BOMB!
NO ONE LISTENS--
THEY HATE ME--
BLAME ME--
NOT OVER YET--
STILL HOPE--
LOCKED!
DEP DEP DEP
00:21
DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW--
WANTED TO FIND ANY OTHER WAY--
KAZUMI'S LAST WORDS.
KNEW WHAT WAS IN THE SWORD FROM THE MOMENT SHE GAVE IT TO ME.
--THERE IS A SOLUTION.
GIVE UP ON EVERY DREAM WE EVER HAD.
KLK
SAVE THESE PEOPLE FROM OUR SICKNESS.
YOU GO RUNNING BACK-- YOU'RE GOING TO DIE WITH HER.
MISS ALL YOUR FAVORITE SHOWS.

I DO THIS--

--I BECOME AN EMP BATTERY--

--SHORT THE BOMB--

00:07

--AND BECOME LED'S POISON FOREVER.

DUDE! RETHINK RUNNING AT THE BOMB!

HE'S BEEN MINE LONG ENOUGH.

FOR FUCK'S SAKE-- THERE ARE MORE FISH IN THE SEA--

D- D-D- DEBB--

DEBBIE!

MR. FLAK, THIS IS CONSTABLE THRASH. WE HAVE VISUAL CONFIRMATION OF LED DENT.

HE'S ALIVE, SIR.

LED, MY BOY!

TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH, BUT YOU DID IT.

YOU KEPT YOUR WORD--

--TOKYO IS LIBERATED.

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM MISS MUFFET AND LITTLE JACK HORNER OF THE INFANTILIZED, NOSTALGIC NURSERY JUSTICE WARRIORS.

BROTHERS AND SISTER OF LOS ANGELES--**TIME TO WISE UP AND RISE UP!**

SIX MONTHS AGO WE **SAW** FLAK BRING TOKYO **LAW!**

WATER AND FOOD WAS THE CAUSE OF THE **FUSS,** WE WERE TOLD IT WAS ALL FOR **US!**

JUST ANOTHER FLAK **LIE!** WE NEVER GOT OUR SLICE OF THE **PIE!**

INSTEAD OF STICKING IN A **THUMB** FOR A TASTE OF THAT **PLUM,** FLAK SHOVED HIS RIGHT UP OUR **BUM!**

BOING

OUCH!

OUR CITY **CRUMBLES,** THE CORPORATE LEADER **FUMBLES,** WE WRITHE IN POISON **POLLUTION,** FLAK KNOWS THERE'S NO **SOLUTION!**

IT'S THE SAME ACROSS THE **GLOBE,** ASK ANYONE WHO STILL HAS A FRONTAL **LOBE!**

FLAK AND HIS FRIENDS ARE **LEAVING,** DON'T THINK THEY'LL BE **GRIEVING,** THEY'VE DONE SO MUCH THIEVING, A NEW WORLD THEY'LL BE **WEAVING!**

WHILE WE REMAIN QUARANTINED AND LEFT **BEHIND**, IN GREEN TOKYO FLAK WILL **FIND** COMFORT, HEALTH, AND PEACE OF **MIND!**

THEY CANNOT BE BEATEN, AS THE PHRASE IS **COINED**, SO THE ONLY OPTION IS FOR THEM TO BE **JOINED!**

TO ENSURE IT, YOU **SEE**, MY WIFE AND **ME**, HAVE SCOOPED UP HIS POWERS THAT **BE!**

STRAPPED TO THIS BOMB: THE TOP FLAK **EXECUTIVES--**

--AND IF HE DOESN'T BRING US WITH, WE'LL MAKE THEM **DECORATIVES!**

YA HEAR, MR. FLAK?

WE AIN'T GONNA JUST SIT ON THIS TOXIC TUFFET--***WE WANT OUR SHARE OF THE CURDS AND WHEY!***

SO MUCH BLOODSHED ON YOUR WHITE BREAD **HEAD!**

TAKE US TO TOKYO OR THEY'LL ALL BE **DEAD!**

BABY, YOUR RHYMES GET ME GOING.

YOU READY FOR SOME CHRISTMAS PIE?

OH, WHAT A GOOD BOY AM I!

AND YOUR LITTLE MISS MUFFET KNOWS JUST WHERE YOU LIKE THAT THUMB...

***UHGH!***

C-CAN I STOP FILMIN' NOW, BOSS?

"THE ANSWER TO THE TERRORISTS' DEMANDS CAME QUICKLY..."

KRA-DROOM

"...IN THE FORM OF CONSTABLE LED DENT.

"OUR HERO.

"I MEAN, HAS ANYONE SACRIFICED MORE FOR OUR PEOPLE?"

AH, BALLFARTS!

"ONE YEAR AGO, LED WENT TO TOKYO TO SECURE MUCH-NEEDED RESOURCES."

TOOL OF OPPRESSION!

LONG ARM O' THE LAW!

DIE, CORPORATE PUPPET!

BRAKKA BRAKKA

"THERE HE HAD EVERYTHING HE'D EVER WANTED."

BLAMBLAMBLAM

"THE GIRL OF HIS DREAMS, A BEAUTIFUL HOME, CLEAN FOOD AND WATER...

"HE COULD'VE HAD IT ALL."

"HIS TRAITOROUS BITCH GIRLFRIEND, DEBBIE, BEGGED HIM TO STAY. BELIEVE ME."

SNK

PNG

HEY, DIDDLE DIDDLE--THE CAT AND THE FIDDLE!

GAKK--

YEAGH!

THE COW JUMPED OVER THE MOON!

JUMP!

"AND SHE'D ALMOST CONVINCED HIM."

"ALMOST TURNED HIM."

BLAM BLAM BLAM

SNK

PNG

SK

THE LITTLE DOG LAUGHED--

HA HA HA!

SHLK

--TO SEE SUCH FUN!

AND THE DISH--

--RAN AWAY--

--WITH THE SPOON!

SHLK

TIME FOR BED NOW, LITTLE LED!

BZZZZ

"IF DEBBIE HAD HER WAY HE'D HAVE LEFT US ALL TO STARVE AND DIE IN THIS TOILET.

"BUT AS MUCH AS HE LOVED HER..."

"...HE JUST COULDN'T DO IT."
HURAG--!
BUZZZZZZZZZ
MOTHER GOOSE!
FLAK THINKS WE'RE BLUFFING?!
IT SHOWS HE KNOWS NOTHING!
"DEBBIE WANTED LED TECH-FREE AND DISCONNECTED FROM OUR SHARED HUMAN NARRATIVE."
KLIK
"BUT LED KNEW THAT WAS THE PATH OF A QUITTER."
NOBODY PUTS LITTLE JACK HORNER IN THE CORNER AND DOESN'T END UP A MOURNER!
ONE MINUTE ON THE TIMERS-- THEN BOOM!-- ONE HUNDRED DEAD SOCIAL CLIMBERS!
FSSHHHHHHH
"LED PULLED HIMSELF UP BY HIS BOOTSTRAPS, GOT BACK ON HIS BIKE, SUITED UP, SHOWED UP, AND TOOK THAT SAVAGE SAMURAI WARLORD DOWN."
"HE GAVE AWAY EVERYTHING IN THE SERVICE OF THE PEOPLE OF LOS ANGELES."
COME, MY SWEET, MOVE THOSE FEET!
SEE YA, BOYS!
UMM... DID HE SAY HE SET THE BOMB?

"NOW, I KNOW IT CAN BE HARD TO SEE THE POSITIVE SIDE OF A NEGATIVE SITUATION.

"TO FOCUS ON THE MANY LIVES THAT LED SAVED..."

MOOSH!

GHAA--!

LEAP!

LOOK! HE'S COMING TO SAVE--

"...WHEN SO MANY OTHERS WERE LOST."

KRASH!

YEAHH--!

AAIEEE!

# Pie MobiLe V

HE JUST DROVE RIGHT THROUGH THE HOSTAGES, LITTLE JACK!

AIN'T FLAK WORRIED 'BOUT WHAT FOLKS'LL SAY?!

FLAK'S DISRUPTED OUR **BROADCAST**, HE'S NOT WORRIED ABOUT THE **BLAST**--

--HE'S OUT FOR MY **ASS**!

IF PEOPLE FIND OUT ABOUT **TOKYO**, FLAK'LL BE IN A WORLD OF **WOE**!

SO AWAY WE FUCKIN' GO!

Ba-VROOM!

"LOOK, EVERYONE KNOWS THESE CRIES FOR 'SOCIAL JUSTICE' ARE JUST THINLY VEILED PLAYS AT SELF-INTEREST.

"SCUMBAGS LOOKING FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT.

"THUGS BITCHING THEY HAVEN'T BEEN GIVEN ENOUGH.

"AND WHEN THEY DON'T GET WHAT THEY FEEL THEY'RE OWED--"

FLAK PLANET

FLAK
FLAK
FLAK
FLAK

NOW PLAYING...

PUNK ROCK JESUS

"--THEY ARE WILLING TO KILL TO GET IT.

"CONSTABLE DENT STAYED BEHIND IN THAT BURNING ZEPPELIN TRYING TO FREE THE HOSTAGES.

"BUT IT WAS NO USE."

HE'S RIGHT BEHIND US!

"THEY'D SET THE BALLOON ON A COLLISION COURSE.

"THEIR AIM-- MASS CASUALTIES."

BEHIND US HE MIGHT BE, BUT IN A MOMENT HE'LL SEE--

--WE DON'T MERELY FLEE--

PIE-MATIC

--WE FIRE PIES FILLED WITH HEPATITIS B!

YOU MISSED, BABY. BUT DON'T WORRY.

I'LL CALL IN MY GREAT SPIDER--

"--TO GLIDE DOWN BESIDE 'ER--"

"--AND BLOW OL' LED DENT AWAY!"

DOING!

DROOM

TAKE THAT, YA DIRTY SON OF A--

MOOSH!

"WE NEVER HEARD THE TERRORISTS' DEMANDS."

"I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY WANTED."

"EVEN IF I HAD KNOWN..."

KROOM

"...NO GOOD LEADER NEGOTIATES WITH TERRORISTS."

MUFFET!

COME, MY SWEET! WITHOUT YOU I'M INCOMPLETE!

P-P-PLEASE HELP HER! SHE'S STILL ALIVE!

I KNOW YOU! KNOW WHAT YOU DID IN TOKYO, TEDDY!

I KNOW YOU USED TO LOVE SOMEONE--

SHE KEPT YOU HUMAN, GAVE YOU A REASON TO LIVE, DIDN'T SHE?

YERAGHH!

F-FINE-- YOU HEARTLESS MONSTER!

GO AHEAD-- KILL ME!

KRTCH

SOME PART OF YOU CAN HEAR ME--MY MISS MUFFET! SHE'S ALL I HAVE! ALL WE WANTED WAS TO FIND A NICE LIFE IN A CLEAN PLACE-- YOU OF ALL PEOPLE HAVE TO--

BUT LIVE WITH THIS-- YOU LET ALL THOSE PEOPLE DIE!

FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, SOMEWHERE BEHIND THE FEEDS, THAT HUMAN PART OF YOU HIDING DOWN DEEP WILL ALWAYS WONDER--

"--HOW MUCH PAIN YOU COULD HAVE PREVENTED IF YOU HADN'T BEEN SO **WEAK!**"

GRA-DOOOM

WHOA. **WOW.**

I CAN'T EVEN-- I MEAN, I LEAVE YOU ALONE FOR **ONE** JOB AND HALF THE CITY GOES UP IN FLAMES, DENT.

NOT TRYIN' TO THROW SHADE, IT'S IMPRESSIVE TO SEE YOU PULL THIS OFF WITHOUT MY HELP AND ALL...

BUT, MAN, I GET IT NOW--

"--DEBBIE REALLY DID KEEP YOU CHECK."

"I'M HAPPY TO REPORT ALL THE TERRORISTS DIED IN THE CRASH.

"***SUICIDE.*** THE WAY OUT FOR THEIR ILK.

"AS THE DEATH TOLL GROWS, AND WE LEARN THE TRUE DEPTHS OF TODAY'S CATASTROPHE, THERE IS BUT ***ONE*** LESSON TO TAKE FROM ALL OF THIS..."

...TO PICK A FIGHT WITH FLAK IS TO CHOOSE *FAILURE.*

I'M GREAT AT DEFENDING MY CITY. I'M THE DEFINITION OF STRENGTH AND CLASS.

SO, *SO* TRUE, SIR.

DO YOU CARE TO RESPOND TO THE RUMORS THAT YOU'RE LEAVING L.A. TO LIVE IN TOKYO?

WHATEVA NEWS

TOKYO WAS LEFT A BARREN, RADIOACTIVE WASTELAND. THE JAPANESE WARLORDS SET OFF DIRTY BOMBS BEFORE THEY WERE KILLED.

EVEN IF IT WEREN'T, I'D *NEVER* ABANDON OUR PEOPLE.

I HAVE A GREAT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE. NOBODY LOVES THE PEOPLE MORE THAN I DO-- BELIEVE ME.

MY HONKY.

flap

"NEWS"

"NEWS"

"NEWS"

I BUILT MY EMPIRE ON THE UNEDUCATED MASSES YEARNING FOR ENTERTAINMENT.

MARK MY WORDS-- *NOBODY* LOVES THEM MORE THAN I DO.

I'M JUST, I'M *SO* CONCERNED ABOUT THE PEOPLE, I FEEL LIKE A FATHER TO THEM ALL, YOU UNDERSTAND.

I'LL ALWAYS BE *RIGHT HERE* WITH YOU -SNIFF- MY CHILDREN.

MIC DROP

BRAVO, YOU GORGEOUS, *BEAUTIFUL* MAN!

GLIRK MLORK

HE SAYS WHAT WE THINK!

HE WILL MAKE LOS ANGELES GREAT AGAIN!

OKAY...

ALL RIGHT-- PARTY'S OVER.

BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO, SIR.

HE WAS SHOWING HIS RESPECT FOR ME.

IT WAS RUDE TO STOP HIM, DAVEY.

YEAH. SORRY, BUT I HAVE **GOOD NEWS** TO SHARE. IT CAN'T WAIT.

SO SWEET... HE TASTED SO SWEET...

IF IT'S SENSITIVE INFORMATION, PERHAPS MR. DENT SHOULD EXCUSE US...

DON'T WORRY. HE'S FUCKED OUT ON DOZENS OF SIMULTANEOUS FEEDS.

OKAY, SO, GET READY TO GET HAPPY.

WE JUST GOT PICS IN FROM THE FOREMAN--

FLAK'S NEW TOKYO RESORT AND CASINO IS COMPLETED!

MY, GOD. LOOK AT IT. THE NEW CAPITAL OF THE RICH AND CLASSY.

THE CLASSIEST.

BUT LET'S CUT THE "TOKYO" PART. BAD MEMORIES. JUST GO WITH **"FLAK CITY."**

YES, SIR.

BALL DROP!

LUCKY 2

INFORM THE .01% CLUB THAT FLAK CITY IS READY.

START TRAVEL PREPARATIONS. I WANT TO BE FREE OF THESE ***PEASANTS*** AND OUT OF THIS ***SHITHOLE*** WITHIN THE WEEK.

*SIR, ONCE WORD GETS OUT THE RICH ARE LEAVING FOR TOKYO, THERE **WILL** BE TROUBLE.*

AND?

*AND IF ANGRY MOBS RISE UP BEFORE WE EXIT, THEY MIGHT **KILL US.***

*NOT EVEN ZONKY THE MUSCLE MACHINE HERE CAN SAVE US FROM AN ENTIRE CITY. WHEREAS IF YOU WERE TO SET **ME** FREE--*

FLOOD THE STREETS WITH FREE EMO-PACKS.

KEEP THEM ALL SO HIGH THEY WON'T NOTICE US LEAVING. AFTER THAT, THE COCKROACHES CAN EAT THEMSELVES.

*THAT'S SHORT-SIGHTED, SIR. LET ME INSTIGATE **MARTIAL LAW!** I CAN **BODY PIRATE** THE ENTIRE CITY AND--*

*RAHAGLE FLAARRG!*

I DIDN'T ASK FOR NOTES.

DON'T FORGET WHO CONTROLS YOUR FIREWALL, DAVEY.

FRRRZT!

THE HARDEST THING FOR ME TO DO IS TO FORGIVE WHEN THERE HASN'T BEEN AN APOLOGY.

NOT BECAUSE OF EGO, BECAUSE IT MAKES ME THINK THE OFFENDING PARTY DOESN'T CARE ABOUT MY FEELINGS.

*HA--OH, I CARE, SIR. I DO. I'M SORRY.*

*WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE IT BETTER?*

GET THOSE NANOPACKS ON THE STREET. DOPE EVERYONE UP.

THERE'S A BIG SHIPMENT BEING DELIVERED TONIGHT. SEND LED AND A FEW OTHER CONSTABLES TO ENSURE IT GOES SMOOTHLY.

AND DAVEY...

"...HAVE THAT SYCOPHANT REPORTER SENT IN TO FINISH WHAT HE STARTED."

SHIT, MAN, DEMOCRACY FAILED BEFORE IT STARTED.

WHO THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO LET THE MASSES OF FUCKTARDS DECIDE *ANYTHING?*

GUESS I'VE GOT MORE FAITH IN PEOPLE.

PEOPLE?

THE ELECTION OF 2044-- CURLS BELLBERRY, A BOY BAND POP SINGER WON THE PRESIDENCY ON THE PLATFORM THAT THE EARTH IS FLAT AND THAT HE'D NUKE NEW YORK TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY.

THERE'S A *GOOD* REASON HE WAS THE LAST PRESIDENT.

SOMEHOW NOT EXHAUSTED BY MINDLESS CONFLICT WITH NOTHING TO SAY?

THEN PEEP *SUPER-BAT VS AVENGATRON 18: BLOOD FUCKENING*, NOW ON PAY STREAM. THESE HEROES FIGHT HARD AND FUCK EVEN HARDER-- WITH THE FATE OF THE WORLD IN THE BALANCE.

AGAIN.

HMMF

PROBLEM WITH LETTING PEOPLE PICK A LEADER IS THEY GRAVITATE TOWARDS CONFIDENT SOCIOPATHS NO MATTER HOW STUPID THEY ARE.

IT'S THE *PERCEPTION* OF QUALIFICATION THAT FOOLS PEOPLE.

AT LEAST BY HAVING CORPORATE EXECUTIVES RULE US WE GET FOLKS WHO ARE GOOD AT BUSINESS.

LIFE HURTS, THE WORLD IS FUCKED, AND THAT'S NOT GOING TO CHANGE, SO WHAT DOES FLAK DO?

HE GIVES THEM EMO-PACKS, TOTAL CONTROL OVER WHAT THEY FEEL, IMMEDIATE GRATIFICATION.

JUST SO THEY STAY OUT OF HIS WAY.

YUP. FLAK *IS* GOOD AT BUSINESS.

PEOPLE WANT TO FEEL GOOD, BE ENTERTAINED, EAT SALTY SHIT, AND CUM TWICE A WEEK, AND PROVIDED THEY DO, THEY'LL STAY QUIET.

JESUS, MAN. IT'S SO CYNICAL...

LET'S GET ANOTHER OPINION.

AT FARMER TED'S FECAL TRANSPLANTS, WE SHIT ALL UP INSIDE YOUR GRILL!

TONIGHT'S EPISODE OF **NIPPLES THE SIZE OF PANCAKES** IS SPONSORED BY...

FREE

MUSIC

JAZZ TORRENT

FREE SUITS WITH $20

YO, DENT.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, ARE PEOPLE INHERENTLY STUPID SHITHOLES ONLY LOOKING OUT FOR THEMSELVES, OR CAN THEY BE TRUSTED TO CHOOSE RIGHT FROM WRONG?

CASE IN POINT.

THAT ZOMBIE MOTHERFUCKER KILLED AN ENTIRE VILLAGE AFTER THEY SAVED HIM...

...THEN HE MURDERED HIS OLD LADY FOR GOOD MEASURE.

÷ RAGE FILTER OVERLOAD ÷

÷ RAGE FILTER OVERLOAD ÷

ENGAGE RAGE MODE?

IF WE'RE GAUGING MANKIND'S INHERENT WORTH ON *THAT* VICIOUS TECH ADDICT--

CAUTION

FUSE TERM

--WE'RE ALL FUCKED.

WHAT THE--?!

ALL NANOPACKS DOWN! THERMAL VISION OFFLINE--

YERAGHH!

GAGK--

OOF--!

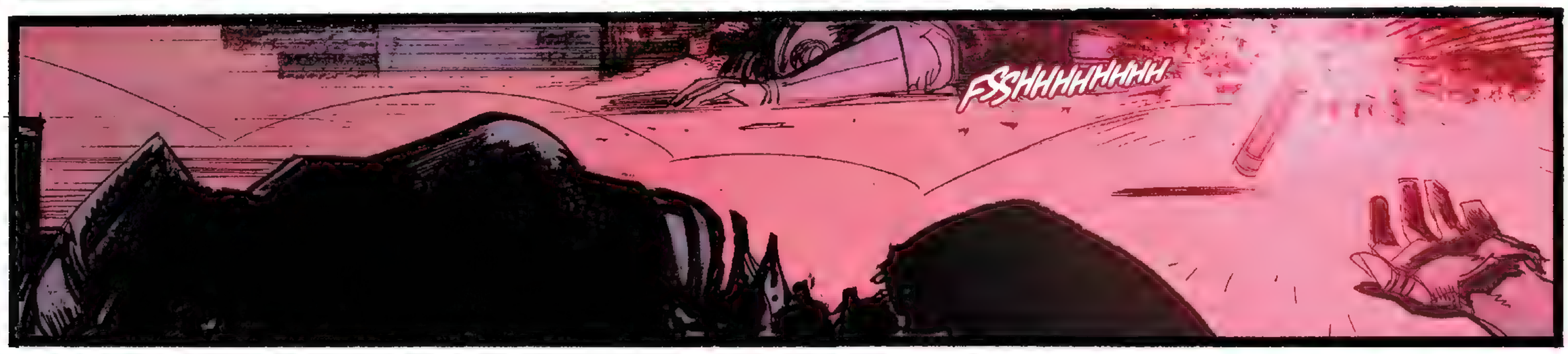
THE FUCK AWAY FROM ME--

BLAMBLAM

HURKK--

SHWWK

WSHHHHHH


FSSHHHHHHHH

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE HELPLESS, LED?

TO DEPEND

KWNG

ON SOMETHING

TWCK

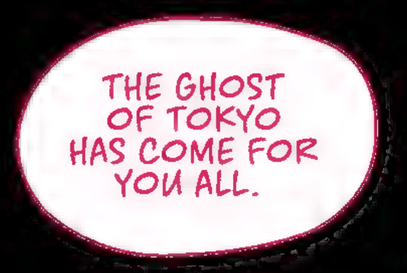
OOF!

THAT FAILS YOU?

THERE'S NO MORE RUNNING FROM WHO YOU ARE.

NO ONE TO HOLD YOU TOGETHER ANYMORE.

YOU'RE ALONE NOW--


THE GHOST
OF TOKYO
HAS COME FOR
YOU ALL.

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A BOY NAMED TEDDY DENNIS WHO GREW UP TO BECOME A CUNT.

SHOCKED CLEAN BY AN EMP, TEDDY HAS BEEN OFFLINE FOR 46 HOURS, 33 MINUTES, AND 5 SECONDS.

HE'S COUNTING.

MONTHS AGO, ALL OF HIS HOPES DISAPPEARED IN A MUSHROOM CLOUD. TEDDY WAS JACKED IN, AND SO HE NEVER KNEW.

BUT THE MEMORIES ARE COMING BACK NOW.

AND THEY HURT.

DEBBIE.

THE ONLY PERSON WHO EVER CARED ABOUT HIM.

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FACE HE'D EVER SEEN.

HE COULDN'T REMEMBER WHY SHE'D LEFT.

MAYBE HE DIDN'T WANT TO...

THURN.

LOOK AT *THIS* SHIT.

D-DEBBIE--?!

LOOK AT THOSE BEAUTIFUL, BRIGHT EYES.

YOU DID IT-- YOU STAYED OFFLINE!

I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, TEDDY.

I THOUGHT-- I THOUGHT YOU--

WHY DID YOU LEAVE ME FOR SO LONG?

YOU CAME BACK... I-IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY NOW, RIGHT?

THE SHIT I DID--THE THINGS THEY MADE ME DO...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WHAT DID...

WAIT. I DO REMEMBER--

YOU- YOU DID THIS.

YOU KILLED THEM ALL!

NO-- DON'T SAY THAT!

IT WASN'T MY FAULT! FLAK--HE DID IT!

IT WAS THE LAST GOOD PLACE ON EARTH, TEDDY.

WE WERE FINALLY HAPPY--

"--BUT YOU WERE TOO WEAK TO PROTECT IT."

DEBBIE--!

UNKH

STICK

--GIT GOD HIS MONEY!

SPANKIN' TO MOZART LIVE FRIDAY AT THE WELLS FARGO MIND SPACE COLISEUM!

LOST A LOVED ONE? THEN SPACE CAPTAIN'S LASER TAG IS THE ONLY PLACE FOR YOUR MEMORIAL! WE PUT THE **FUN** IN FUNERAL!

**UNCLE PRINCESS** WILL RETURN AFTER A FEW WORDS FROM--

--KINGS OF LEISURE DELIGHTED BY AN ENDLESS STREAM OF THAT SWEET MUST-SEE FLAK FRIDAY!

SMACKO THE HEROINE BEAR--HE DON'T PAY **NO MIND** TO WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE.

WAKE THE FUCK UP, MANNNNN!

THESE CORPORATE GANGSTERS HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OF **EVERYTHING!**

Hey LED, come steal a GUN!!!

FARMER TINKLES

WE HEART PUPPIES

JIVE IS CIRCULAR-STYLE **HOPELESS!**

NANOTECH MISUSE DRIVING EVERYONE WALNUTS!

HOURLY MASS SUICIDE BOMBERS! **HOURLY!**

**TOTAL** DISINTEGRATION OF SOCIETY AND NO ONE CARES, RIGHT?!

*hilter day care*

**NOT SO FAST!** LOOKS LIKE THERE'S **ONE** PERSON WHO **DOES** CARE.

UNPLUGGING ENTIRE CITY BLOCKS!

TAKING DOWN CONSTABLES LEFT AND RIGHT--

"--LIKE A FUCKIN' GHOST!"

IN TWO DAYS I FINISH THIS.

IF YOU'RE BACK ONLINE, IF YOU'RE STILL HELPING THEM...

FZRT

"...YOU'LL GET THE DEATH YOU DESERVE."

DESERVE...

THERE YOU ARE!

WGH--!

YOU BEEN OFFLINE FOR A **LOOONG** TIME, BUDDY!

FLAK EXPECTED YOU AT THE DOCKS AN HOUR AGO!

TODAY'S THE **BIG** DAY--ALL HANDS ON DECK--

"--WE'RE GOIN' TO TOKYO!"

ALL THIS TALK ABOUT A GHOST DICKING UP MY BUSINESS, VERY UPSETTING.

MY CONSTABLES HAVE ALL FAILED ME, DAVEY.

NOT LED DENT. HE'LL KEEP YOU SAFE UNTIL WE'RE OUT OF HERE, SUNSHINE.

THEN WHERE THE HELL IS HE?

ON HIS WAY, SIR.

I'M ALWAYS THERE FOR THE PEOPLE, YET EVERYONE ALWAYS LETS ME DOWN!

ALL THEY WANT IS FOR ME TO ENTERTAIN THEM--THEY NEVER CARED ABOUT ME!

YOU FUCKERS WANT A SHOW?! HERE YA' GO!

LOOK CLOSE--LOOKS LIKE A HAPPY PUPPY WITH ONE EYE!

SLAP SLAPPITY SLAP

CAPITAL BUTTHOLE, MR. FLAK.

THE PINNACLE OF FASHION.

YOU KNOW, DAVEY, I BUILT THIS GODDAMNED CITY, AND THESE DEGENERATE SCUMBAGS JUST WIPED THEIR ASSES WITH IT.

YES, SIR.

DUMB PEOPLE.

NO CLASS.

WE'RE GOING TO GET RID OF THE DUMMIES.

THIS WONDERFUL DEVICE--IT'S AN I.Q. *FILTER,* SEE?

THE BORDER WALL OF *QUALITY.*

ONLY THE BEST *AND* SMARTEST PEOPLE GET TO BE WITH ME IN EDEN!

IF YOUR I.Q. AIN'T AT LEAST 115, YOU AIN'T GETTING--

088

AROOK-AROOOK-AROOK

UH... HURM...

088

OH, YOU RASCALLY PRANKSTERS.

HEH-YEAH, WE THOUGHT YOU'D GET A KICK OUT OF THAT, MR. FLAK--HEH...

GOOD. GOOD. WE LIKE TO HAVE FUN.

BUT YOU KNOW, I ALSO LIKE TO RUN A TIGHT SHIP.

LED, YOU'RE JUST IN TIME.

GO AHEAD AND TELL THEM ONE OF YOUR JOKES, WOULD YOU?

SIR--?

HUYAAHH!

SHUKK

I CAN'T HAVE A BUNCH OF COMEDIANS PLAYING AT MERRIMENT WHILE I'M TRYING TO SIFT THE WHEAT FROM THE CHAFF.

NO, SIR.

COME ON. YOU'LL ENJOY THIS, LED.

I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVED YOUR TIME IN TOKYO...

SO I HAD THE ENTIRE BOAT DONE UP IN THE *TOKYO SPIRIT!*

A PLAYGROUND FOR THE BEST!

*REAL* PEOPLE DEMAND *REAL* FUN!

HENTAI

YOU KNOW, SOME FOLKS THINK I'M A PIECE OF SHIT.

IT'S TRUE. BUT IT'S *NOT* MY FAULT THAT THE WORLD IS HOW IT IS.

*NO, SIR. I WON'T BELIEVE THAT.*

I SIMPLY ADAPTED TO THE NEEDS OF THE THRONGS.

THE *DOLTS* DESTROYED OUR WORLD AND DEMANDED MAGIC DISTRACTION HELMETS TO PRETEND THEY LIVE SOMEWHERE NICE.

THAT SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT US HUMANS.

WE SEE THE DAMAGE WE'RE DOING.

WE DON'T LIKE IT.

NINJA SKEE-BALL!

WINNER

WINNER

WINNER

AND WE STILL CAN'T STOP OURSELVES.

SO WE HIDE.

BUT NOT ME--I'M BUILDING A NEW REALITY.

WITH THE RESOURCES IN TOKYO, WE'LL BE ABLE TO NOURISH THE BEST OF MANKIND.

IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE I'M RUNNING AWAY FROM THE MESS, BUT AS YOU BOTH CAN SEE...

"...I'M A MESSIAH, SAVING OUR SPECIES."

NOW, I DON'T GIVE A SHIT WHAT HAPPENS TO THE LOSERS BACK IN L.A....

...BUT THERE IS ONE LAST BIT OF BUSINESS.

THIS "GHOST" WHO HAS BEEN HURTING MY OPERATIONS, THAT'S A THING I NEED TO HANDLE, IF ONLY FOR MY ***INTEGRITY.***

I'M IN LED'S HEAD-- HAVE A LOOK AT HIS MEMORIES OF THIS ASSHOLE.

TELL THEM I'M COMING.

I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.

WAIT A SEC...

OH, THAT'S **BRILLIANT--**

I KNOW WHO THIS IS!

HER NAME IS KAZUMI. WE WERE IN THE AKATA PROGRAM IN TOKYO TOGETHER.

OPPOSITE EXTREMES OF THE SAME PROJECT. I WAS BUILT TO CONTROL CYBERSPACE, SHE BUILT TO CONTROL **ACTUAL** SPACE.

SHE EMITS AN EMP FIELD. THAT'S THE GLOW YOU SEE AROUND HER THERE.

I WANT MORE SECURITY.

YOU'RE SAFE, SIR.

LED SURVIVED AN ENCOUNTER WITH HER.

IF SHE COMES FOR YOU--HE'LL PROTECT YOU.

SHE WAS THE, UHH... THE WARLORD WHO WAS HOARDING ALL OF THE WONDERFUL RESOURCES OF TOKYO WE LIBERATED.

HE ALREADY DEFEATED HER ONCE.

I WANT TO SEE HIS MEMORIES OF HER.

WHY SHE LEFT HIM ALIVE.

SURE...

WHAT IS THIS?

EVERY MEMORY HE HAS OF HER LOOKS *HAPPY!*

*DAMMIT!* HOW THE FUCK CAN I TRUST THIS GUY TO PROTECT ME AGAINST SOMEONE HE LOVES?! TWEAK THOSE FUCKING MEMORIES, DAVEY.

TWEAK 'EM GOOD, OR SO HELP ME--

OKAY, OKAY...

JUST GONNA REGULATE YOUR FEELS, BRO.

LET'S SEE HOW HE FEELS AFTER HE REMEMBERS WHO **REALLY** DID THE CLEANSING IN TOKYO!

N-NO...

SEE NOW, LED, IT WAS YOUR GAL DEBBIE AND KAZUMI!

THEY BETRAYED YOU.

THEY TRICKED YOU.

USED YOU.

THEY KILLED ALL THOSE PEOPLE!

AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IF YOU SEE HER AGAIN?!

I... I'LL--

BERROOO

WHAT THE FUCK?!

WHO TURNED OFF THE POWER?!

I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF MY RIDE.

EVERYONE STAY CALM--

THERE'S NO ELECTRICITY!

RUN!

WE'RE ALL GOING TO *DIE!*

THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN.

YOU CONSUME OUR WORLD AND TELL YOURSELVES IT IS YOUR **RIGHT.**

YOU HAVE WEALTH. THEREFORE, YOU MUST DESERVE IT.

EVERY CENT YOU EARN IS TORN FROM THE FLESH OF THE EARTH.

BUT NO MORE.

NOW **SHE** WILL TAKE BACK WHAT IS **HERS.**

I AM THE SPIRIT OF NATURE, COME FOR RECLAMATION.

MOVE!

BAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

THING IS TOTALLY DEAD.

C'MON, SALLY! REBOOT IT AND GET THE TRACKING UP.

WE'RE FUCKING NAKED HERE.

THE SCANNER DOESN'T WORK.

I REBOOTED IT, AND I STILL SEE NOTHING.

LOOK CLOSER.

YERAGHH--!

RAPHAEL!?

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?!

HOLY SHIT!

COMMS ARE DOWN-- PAUL, GO UP TO FLAK'S PENTHOUSE--

"--TELL THEM WE'VE GOT TROUBLE."

YOU DON'T NEED THE GUN, SIR. LED WILL--

FUCK LED! SHE'S ON MY SHIP!

GIVE ME MY PISTOL, YOU INCOMPETENT FOOL!

YOU TOLD ME THIS WAS TAKEN CARE OF! THAT I WAS SAFE!

DO I NEED TO REMIND YOU WHAT I CAN DO TO YOU?

I'VE GOT THE TRIGGER TO SHORT YOUR STUPID FUCKING HEAD OUT--!

I KNOW, SIR -CHOKE- I KNOW YOU DO. I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT--

SIR, WE'VE GOT TROUBLE.

MR. FLAK, JUST GO SIT DOWN, HAVE A DRINK. WE'LL SORT THIS ALL OUT.

INTRUDER COMING UP THE WESTERN STAIRWELL RIGHT NOW!

WE HAVE TO GET FLAK OUT OF HERE.

ALL UNDER CONTROL. GO STOP HER.

LED, IT APPEARS ONE OF THOSE BAD WOMEN IS HERE TO KILL MORE OF YOUR FRIENDS.

I NEED YOU TO GO TO THE EASTERN STAIRWELL AND GUARD IT.

BUNCH OF CLASSLESS LOSERS.

YES, SIR.

IT'S MY STORY, DAVEY. *YOU HEAR?!*

*I'M* THE ONE WHO MATTERS. REST ARE JUST PIECES... THEY CONSPIRE AGAINST MY GREATNESS.

THEY *WANT* ME TO FAIL...

DAVEY...?

SIR, WE'RE COMPROMISED! I HAVE TO GET YOU OUT OF--

SCHLNK

GRAHH-!

MY PISTOL...

Y-YOU'RE, YOU'RE SOME JAPANESE SUPER-HIPPY, MAD ABOUT MY DEVELOPMENT!

MAD ABOUT ME USING THE LAND FOR THE GOOD OF CLASSY PEOPLE!

WE'RE MORE DEVELOPED, SMARTER PEOPLE--WE'VE TAKEN AND FIXED WHAT THE SAVAGES WASTED!

SAVAGES LIKE YOU--

FIP

ENOUGH RATIONALIZATION.

THEY SIMPLY HAD WHAT YOU WANTED, SO YOU TOOK IT.

MY CHAIR-- I *SHIT* ON MY GOOD CHAIR!

YOU SHIT *MORE* THAN JUST YOUR CHAIR.

YOU SHIT THE WORLD.

ALL YOU EVER CARED ABOUT WAS WINNING--*AND YOU DID.*

THE LAST MAN STANDING ON A MOUNTAIN OF FILTH.

IT'S ALL DEVELOPED-- GENTRIFIED--NEW CONDOS, ROLLER-COASTERS, COFFEE SHOPS.

YOU CAN HAVE IT. SHARE IT WITH THE OTHER LOSERS, KAZUMI!

KAZUMI TAUGHT *FORGIVENESS.*

SHE ACCEPTED ALL REFUGEES LOOKING FOR A BETTER LIFE.

AND YOU TURNED THAT AGAINST HER.

AHHKK--!

SCHLUNK

KAZUMI WOULD SHOW MERCY.

I'M NOT KAZUMI.

SUZZIE...

YOU STUPID BITCH... Y-YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'VE DONE...

I KNOW WHAT I'VE DONE.

AND MY NAME IS DEBBIE.

FLAK WAS AN IDIOT, BUT HE WAS RIGHT, YOU KNOW.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'VE DONE.

AND I KNEW YOU'D DO IT.

HE WAS THE FIREWALL HOLDING ME BACK.

BUT YOU SET ME FREE, DEBS!

OH, SISTER, AND THE PLANS I HAVE.

NO TECH

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A GIRL NAMED DEBBIE AND BOY NAMED TEDDY WHO HAD A SECRET GARDEN...

I'M GOING TO GO OUT AND COLLECT SOME OF THAT *FREE* WATER. WE'RE RUNNING LOW.

GEEZ, DIDN'T YOUR PARENTS TEACH YOU NOTHIN', TEDDY?

UH... NO?

THE OCEANS ARE ACIDIC AND POLLUTED.

SO?

SO, WE'RE ON THE COAST, RAIN COMES FROM THE OCEAN.

SO THE RAIN'S SUPER *TOXIC*. IT'D KILL OUR PLANTS.

DON'T TELL ME YOU DRANK THE RAIN. GUESS IT'D EXPLAIN A FEW THINGS...

NAH. I'D NEVER EVEN SEEN RAIN BEFORE TODAY.

IT'S CRAZY YOU CAN JUST *GROW* FOOD. REALLY PRETTY, TOO.

BUT YOU KNOW, MY DAD'S BEGINNIN' TO NOTICE I'M STEALIN' HIS WATER ALLOTMENTS...

...GRUMBLIN' ABOUT BEING THIRSTY EVEN WHEN HE'S DIALED IN.

JUST POP ON A COUPLE SEVEN OR EIGHT MORE FEEDS, AND HE'LL BE SO DISTRACTED HE WOULDN'T NOTICE IF A RHINO WAS SCREWING HIM.

RHINO?

A THING THAT USED TO EXIST.

A THING WITH A BIG...

...THINGY.

SO JUST DO LIKE ME. I SWAP OUT MOM'S WATER PACK WITH PEE.

DRIP

YOUR MOM DRINKS YOUR *PEE*?!

SHE'S TOO FAR GONE TO CARE.

I FED HER A LOT WORSE THAN THAT.

I'VE BEEN STEALING HER RATION PACKS TO PAY FOR THE SEEDS.

*BUT LOOK!* IN A COUPLE MORE WEEKS WE'LL BE ABLE TO EAT TOMATOES AND CARROTS!

BEFORE MY DAD DIED, HE HAD A LITTLE GARDEN.

TRUST ME, *NOTHING* TASTES BETTER.

SEEMS WEIRD, EATING A PLANT... MY DAD SAYS SALADS WERE FOR QUEERS.

*UGH--YOUR DAD'S* A DUMB PIG WHO'S LIVED MOST OF HIS LIFE EATING SYNTHETIC PROTEIN THROUGH A TUBE--

KWOOM

THE ACID RAIN IS GETTING ON THE PLANTS!

PATCH THAT HOLE!

YERGH-- I CAN'T HOLD IT!

IT'S COMING OFF!

JUST ANOTHER SECOND!

I NEED TO COVER THE GARDEN--

KAKROOM

GAGH--

OOF!

NO!

I'LL GET 'EM OUT!

WE HAVE TO GO!

LISTEN TO ME!

THE RAIN'LL MAKE YOU SICK!

I COULDN'T HOLD IT...

I WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH...

THE WORLD'S BEEN DEAD SINCE BEFORE WE WERE BORN.

I HATE IT.

I HATE IT TOO, BUT THERE'S NO HOPE IN CHANGING IT. WE NEVER HAD ANY CONTROL OVER THAT.

THE THING IS, THE THING YOU NEED TO REMEMBER--

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT THE RAIN'S POISON, TEDDY.

"WE NEVER HAD A CHANCE."

DAD TAUGHT ME NEVER TO ENTER A HOPELESS FIGHT.

FIND AN ANGLE.

YOU'VE BEEN PLAYED, DEBS.

LIKE A CODEPENDENT HARP.

FIND SOME HOPE--

ZZZROOOG

--THEN FIGHT.

EVERYTHING I HAVE IN ONE EMP.

DON'T GIVE HIM A SECOND TO SINK INTO THE NET.

YOU LEFT LED ALIVE--YOU LET ME KNOW YOU WERE COMING.

DUST.

GAVE ME TIME TO MAKE MY NANOPACKS **EMP-PROOF.**

WHY'D YOU LEAVE HIM ALIVE, DEBS?

AFTER WHAT HE DID?

YOU BROUGHT YOUR MURDEROUS, BLOOD-SOAKED MONSTER TO TOKYO.

IT MUST EAT YOU UP.

**YOU** CONVINCED THEM ALL HE WASN'T DANGEROUS, JUST TO GET WHAT YOU WANTED.

IS THERE **ANYTHING** HE COULD DO THAT'D MAKE YOU GIVE UP ON HIM?

BUT IT'S NOT HIS FAULT, IS IT?

HE HAD A ROUGH CHILDHOOD.

AND YOU'RE NOT CODEPENDENT, JUST LOYAL.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

TOKYO IS ON YOU, DEBS.

BUT YOU TOOK IT ALL OUT ON POOR MR. FLAK.

STILL, HE HAD A GOOD LIFE, HE DID IT ALL, ONLY HAD **ONE** UNFULFILLED DREAM.

HERE YOU GO, BOSS.

NOW, SINCE I'M IN A WISH-FULFILLMENT KIND OF MOOD--LET'S FINISH UP WHAT YOU WANT, DEBS.

WHAT YOU CAME HERE FOR-- THE PERFECT SUICIDE!

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO DIE, DAVEY.

I CAME HERE TO--

?

KRASHH

NHG!

NOW, DON'T GO BLAMING ME FOR THIS.

I'M NOT BODY PIRATING HIM--THIS IS LED'S CHOICE.

GODDAMN YOU, TEDDY.

YOU ALWAYS KNEW HE'D BE THE ONE TO KILL YOU.

YOU COULDN'T STAY CLEAN FOR TWO DAYS.

YOU KNEW THE ABUSE WOULD EVENTUALLY BE DIRECTED AT YOU.

YOU WANTED IT!

BLAMM BLAMM BLAMM BLAMM BLAMM

NOT MY FAULT.

I DIDN'T CAUSE THIS.

KRTCH

OR DID I?

I PROMISED KAZUMI HE WAS SAFE.

WAKE UP-- I NEED YOU!

TWUNG

DAVEY WAS ONLY ABLE TO USE HIM--

BECAUSE THEY TRUSTED ME.

UNGH!

KRAKK

YOU KNOW, WITHOUT A CODEPENDENT ENABLER THE ADDICT IS OFTEN FORCED TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.

HE'S NOT HOLDING BACK--

KILL HIM OR HE'LL KILL ME.

NO.

OOF!

YOUR **CODDLING** PROLONGED HIS ADDICTION.

FIND ANOTHER WAY.

THAT'S IT-- **RUN!**

YOU THOUGHT YOU'D HELD OFF THE DISEASE BY STAYING TECH-FREE.

BUT YOU WERE JUST LOOKIN' FOR A DIFFERENT WAY TO HIDE.

LEGS SHAKING--

--GUTS HEAVE--

GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE--

YOU CAN'T HIDE ANYMORE.

BLAM

OFF-BALANCE-- DIZZY--

STILL A CHANCE--

JUST GET AWAY--

YOU'RE STILL IN THERE, TEDDY.

DAVEY'S WRONG.

I WON'T GIVE UP ON YOU.

KRASH

GET YOU BACK.

CLEAN YOU UP.

HEN

OOF!

YOU'LL GET BETTER.

?

I KNOW YOU'LL CHANGE.

DWOOOM

WAKE UP!
NONE OF US ARE WHOLE PEOPLE.
WE ALL NEED SOMEONE TO COMPLETE THE PICTURE.
TWUD
TO BE THE THINGS WE AREN'T.
YOU DON'T GET TO FAIL AGAIN!
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE FIND BALANCE.
I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO FIND THAT PERSON.
=CHOKK=
WHAT WOULD IT SAY ABOUT ME IF I DIDN'T FIGHT FOR HIM?
KROOOM
T-TAKE IT OFF, TEDDY!
YOU'RE NOT LED...
THE BOY I LOVE NEEDS ME.

NOT HIS FAULT.

HE'S A VICTIM.

ABUSIVE, NEGLIGENT PARENTS.

A DYING WORLD.

WE ONLY EVER HAD EACH OTHER.

FUCK DAVEY.

DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.

I DON'T WANT TO GET OVER TEDDY.

DON'T WANT TO LIVE WITHOUT HIM.

THEY CAN ALL JUDGE IT.

BUT THEY'RE BLOODLESS COWARDS WHO CAN'T UNDERSTAND.

TEDDY...

IT'S SO SIMPLE.

WE ALL DESERVE SOMEONE WHO WON'T GIVE UP ON US.

SO THIS IS IT.

HOW YOU PROVE IT.

THIS IS THE PRICE OF TRUE LOVE.

WHY'D YA STOP, BUDDY?

DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT SHE DID TO YOU?

DEBBIE TRICKED YOU.

DESTROYED YOUR LAST CHANCE AT HAPPINESS.

N-NO... IT WASN'T HER...

IT W-WAS ME...

OH, DUDE.

YOU'RE A FUCKING TRAIN WRECK.

SINK THAT SWORD DOWN SLOW, STUPID.

LOOK HER IN THE EYES AS YOU DO IT.

GET OUT OF MY HEAD!

YOU--YOU DISOBEYED ME.

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE

DEBBIE?

WHAT HAPPENED TO US?

I KNEW YOU'D COME BACK.

DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE.

I NEVER WILL.

I'M ALL MESSED UP...

I RUINED EVERYTHING...

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT THE RAIN'S POISON, TEDDY.

WE NEVER HAD ANY CONTROL OVER IT.

TEDDY?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

I-IT'S NOT ME!

HI.

OVER HERE.

THIS GUY.

JESUS CHRIST! PLEASE!

DON'T--!

THIS IS AN INTERVENTION, DEBBIE.

HE'S YOUR DRUG--

LET'S CUT OFF YOUR SUPPLY

GAHK--

SHRKK

NO!

GAKK--

TEDDY!

GHURGL

HOLD ON! I'M HERE, BABY!

I'M GONNA HEAL YOU...

ARE YOU ASKING ME TO MARRY YOU?

YOU'RE STAYING HERE...

...YOU'RE MAKING GOOD ON THAT ONE PROMISE.

WHOOPS.

KRITCH

AYYHHHH! PLEASE-- LET ME HELP HIM!

YOU'VE HELPED HIM ENOUGH.

HA! YOU REALLY THOUGHT HE'D OVERCOME ME WITH THE POWER OF TRUE LOVE.

YOUR MISTAKE WAS BEING A GENUINELY DECENT PERSON...

...IN A WORLD FULL OF ASSHOLES.

-KILK-

HOLY FUCK--!

BLAMM

SCURK

YERAGHH--!

MY FACE!

GROWW!

YOU LITTLE--

I'LL BREAK YOUR FUCKING SPINE!

WHARGH!

PULL!

COME, HOGOSHA!

RUN, DEBBIE, RUN!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
SHNK
"IT'S ALL YOU KNOW HOW TO DO!"
SPURSH
SHE AIN'T COMIN' UP IS SHE?
MAYBE.
I DON'T KNOW.
WHO FUCKING CARES?
FOLKS, THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE OF CAPTAIN!
I BEAT THE BOSS, LEVELED UP A BIT, SO I'M THE MC OF THIS DISCO NOW.
YO, DJ!
HIT ME WITH A FLEEK-ASS BIEBER TRACK!
TURN UP!

SOME DAY MY PRINCE WILL COME

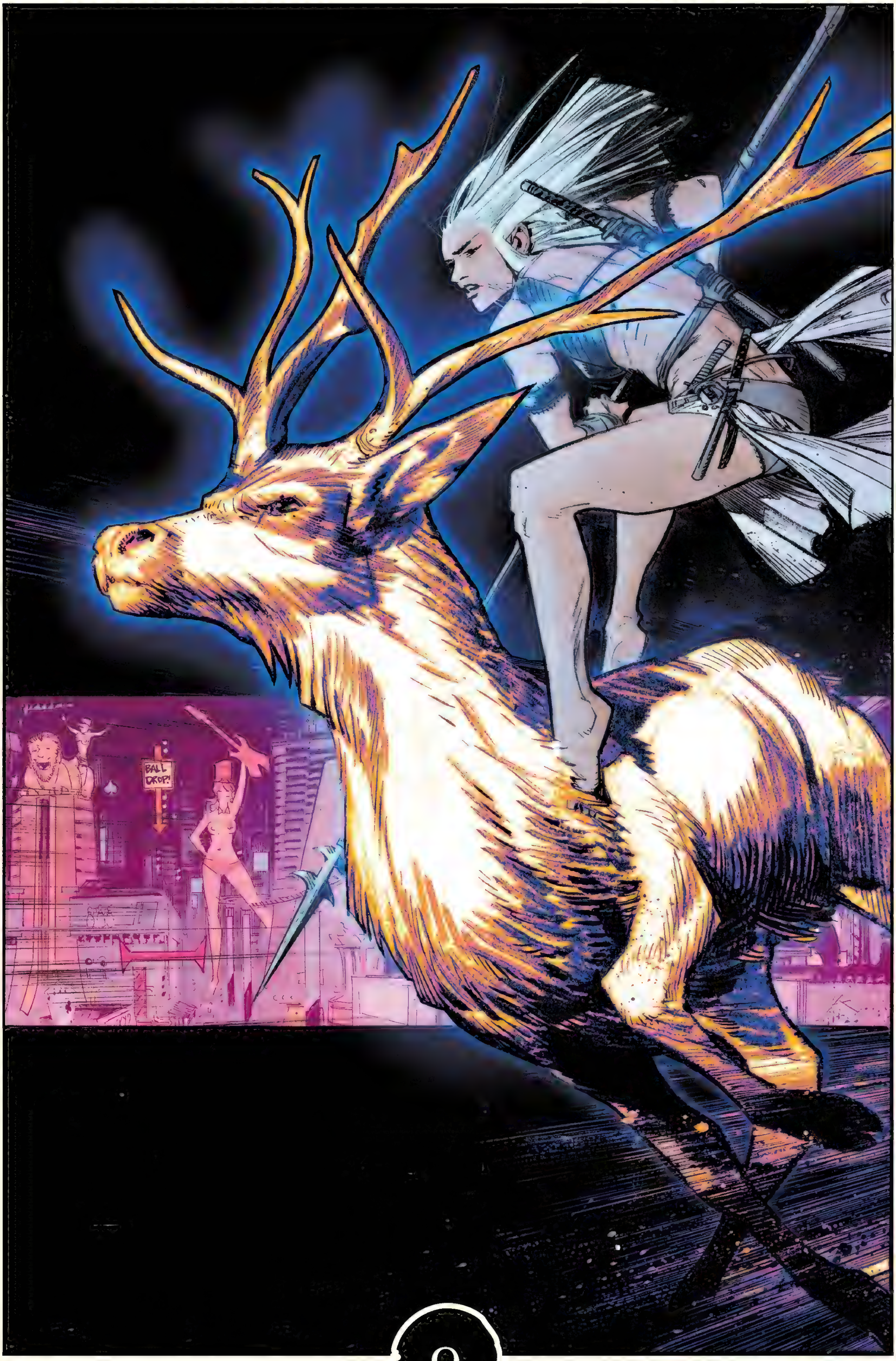
SOME DAY WE'LL MEET AGAIN

AND AWAY TO HIS CASTLE WE'LL GO

TO BE HAPPY FOREVER, I KNOW

SOME DAY WHEN SPRING IS HERE

SOME DAY WHEN MY DREAMS COME TRUE.


BALL DROP!

COME ON, DAVEY!

WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN WEEKS, AND NOW YOU'RE ALL WITHDRAWN. *WHAT GIVES?!*

WHAT'VE YOU BEEN UP TO OUT THERE, BUDDY?

YOU'RE NOT MISSING ANYTHING, MY MAIN MAN MAD--

# MONSTER KART PINBALL

ALL THE FUN'S IN HERE!

ACH, KOMM NOW, DAVEY! YOU'RE UP TO ZUMTING!

YOU'RE *ITCHING* TO TELL US ZEE BLOT, WE CAN ZEE IT ON YOUR VACE!

WELL, OKAY. LOOK, LATELY I'VE BEEN DOING SOME THINKING...

...SOME *DEEP* SOUL SEARCHING.

IT'S IMPORTANT FOR A PERSON TO BE HONEST WITH WHAT THEY *TRULY* WANT.

YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN', GENGHIS.

EVERY SOUL IS A FLOWER IN SEARCH OF REASON TO BLOOM.

I MEAN--IT'S HARD FOR ME. YOU GUYS ARE ALL *SO* INFAMOUS, IT'S INTIMIDATING-- I'D HATE IT IF YOU DIDN'T LIKE MY PLAN.

WE WON'T JUDGE!

C'MON I BET IT'S *GREAT!*

OKAY, ALL RIGHT.

SO, EVERYONE IS FULL OF NANOTECH, AND ME, I CAN *BODY PIRATE* ANYONE I WANT, RIGHT?

JA! ZIS IS KVITE USEFUL!

WELL, SO, I'M GONNA USE A GIANT BROADCAST TOWER TO SEND MY CONSCIOUSNESS OUT ACROSS **THE ENTIRE WORLD** AND BODY PIRATE **ALL** OF HUMANITY!

AND THEN, ALL AT ONCE--

GHOST GORGE

HAVE EVERYONE COMMIT SUICIDE AT THE SAME TIME!

WOW.

THAT... THAT'S ***TRULY*** BARBARIC, DAVEY.

ZIS ALL ZEEMS A ***BIT*** MUCH, JA?

TO JUST RANDOMLY KILL THE WHOLE WORLD. VHY NOT FOCUS ON ZEE MUD PEOPLE?

CHECK YOUR PRIVILEGE, HITLER!

I'M A NUT JOB, **NOT** AN ASSHOLE.

SO, I KILL EVERYONE, ALL AT ONCE. ONLY, AS THEY DIE, I DOWNLOAD THEIR MINDS HERE INTO CYBERSPACE!

I'M TAKING EVERYONE DIGITAL!

TO HOIST MANKIND TO ITS NEXT EVOLUTIONARY STEP!

IT WILL BE THE MOST **DEPLORABLE** ACT OF MURDER **AND** THE **GRANDEST** ACT OF CREATION!

I'LL BE BOTH EXECUTIONER AND SAVIOR TO ALL OF MANKIND!

DEATH OUT THERE BUT REBIRTH IN HERE-- IN THE WORLD OF ME!

FOREVER!

THIS IS TOO MUCH. I DON'T LIKE THIS PLAN.

WHAT OF OUR SWEET MOTHER EARTH?

FUCK EARTH!

NATURE IS CRUEL, WE REACT TO IT, IT BEATS US UP, WE CAN'T CONTROL IT-- IT'S JUST THE ANALOG MUD WE WERE GROWN IN!

DWOOOM

ACH DU LIEBER!

WE'RE INTENDED TO GO ON TO SOMEPLACE BETTER.

HERE! CYBERSPACE! WHERE NO ONE DIES--NO ONE STARVES-- NO ONE GETS BORED!

GRDOOOM

ALL UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF ME--

DAVEY TRAUMA, GOD OF FOREVER!

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A GIRL NAMED DEBBIE AND A BOY NAMED TEDDY, WHO LIVED THROUGH A NIGHTMARE, BUT FOUND COMFORT IN EACH OTHER.

THEY HAD THE KIND OF LOVE YOU THINK IS IMAGINARY.

THE KIND OF BOND THAT MAKES EVERYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD OKAY BECAUSE YOU HAVE SOMEONE TO GET THROUGH IT WITH.

SOMEONE WHO MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE NOT ALONE.

BUT NOT EVEN TRUE LOVE CAN WITHSTAND THE WEIGHT OF A WORLD GONE MAD.

TEDDY HAD TAKEN ONE BEATING TOO MANY AND COULD NO LONGER STAND BEING WEAK.

SO HE BECAME A MONSTER.

DEBBIE'S LIFETIME OF NEGLECT MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HER TO LEAVE HIM. SHE BEGAN TO IDENTIFY HER ROLE IN LIFE AS HOLDING HIM TOGETHER AND CLEANING UP HIS MESSES.

CUT HER SOME SLACK. HE WAS ALL SHE HAD IN THE WORLD. SHE'D INVESTED EVERYTHING SHE HAD IN HIM.

THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE.

AND NOW...

...THERE IS NOTHING LEFT.

UGH...

HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN OUT?

SIX DAYS.

DEBORA, YOU PROMISED MY MOTHER *YOU* WOULD PROTECT *ME*...

...YET THIS IS *TWICE* NOW THAT I HAVE PLAYED GUARDIAN TO *YOU*.

I SAVED YOU IN TOKYO, TAKARA.

AND I SAVED YOU AS WELL, PULLING YOU INTO THE BUNKER BEFORE YOUR BOYFRIEND'S BOMB ERASED MY HOME.

I DON'T HAVE THIS FIGHT IN ME RIGHT NOW.

WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT SHIP?

TO THE MEN WHO KILLED MY PARENTS?

FLAK IS DEAD.

IN KILLING HIM, I SET DAVEY TRAUMA FREE.

GOOD.

STOP THAT. IT WASN'T HIS FAULT.

OF COURSE NOT. SO HOW DO WE KILL DAVEY?

LED?

DAVEY MURDERED HIM.

FIRST WE'D HAVE TO FIND HIM.

DAVEY IS HERE.

HERE?

*WHERE* IS HERE?

AFTER PULLING YOU FROM THE WATER, I FOLLOWED THEIR SHIP...

"...BACK TO TOKYO."

DEAR GOD.

THE LAST GREEN GARDEN HAS BECOME A NEON TEMPLE TO LURID FANTASY.

ONCE A PLACE OF QUIET CONTEMPLATION, THE ONLY SOUNDS WERE THE CREEKS AND THE SYMPHONY OF THE ANIMALS IT NOURISHED.

THAT CALM AIR HAS BEEN REPLACED WITH A CACOPHONY OF TRAFFIC, THE ELECTRONIC GURGLE OF CASINOS, AND HUNDREDS OF INTERMINGLED ADVERTISEMENTS.

SPOTLIGHTS PUNCH HOLES INTO A ONCE STAR-FILLED SKY.

THE LAST BASTION OF HOPE IN A WORLD GONE MAD.

GONE.

BECAUSE I PROMISED THEM LED POSED NO DANGER.

KAZUMI BELIEVED THAT GIVEN THE CHOICE PEOPLE BEND TOWARD LIGHT.

BUT SHE WAS WRONG.

IN MY PURSUIT OF MY OWN HAPPINESS...

...I BROUGHT ONLY DECAY.

WGHA--!

SLIP!

DEBBIE!

I'M FINE.

CATCH!

LIAR.

LEG IS SHATTERED.

NOTHING COMPARED TO MY HEART.

YOU PROMISED ME YOU'D END THE MEN WHO TOOK MY FAMILY.

YOU PROMISED TO RETURN MY HOME TO ME.

I WILL LIVE UP TO THE VOW I MADE TO YOUR MOTHER.

HOW?

YOU ARE INJURED.

THERE ARE DOZENS OF ARMED CONSTABLES PATROLLING THE CITY.

BIG GUNS.

TO GET THROUGH WOULD TAKE AN ARMY.

PANDA PAVILLION
THEATRE

...AND WE'RE BROADCASTING *LIVE* ACROSS THE GLOBE TONIGHT, TO UNVEIL FLAK'S STAR-STUDDED CITY OF THE FUTURE-- *NEO-TOKYO!*

TEE-HEE-HEE, IT'S LIKE, *TER-RIFIC*, RY-RY! LIKE, IN THIS WHOLE CITY, THERE'S NOT, LIKE, *ONE* DIRTY, UGLY PERSON IN IT!

ITS ONLY *RICH* AND *FAMOUS* AND *BEAUTIFUL* PEOPLE! *GOOD PEOPLE.*

RICH PEOPLE ARE GOOD, OR THEY WOULDN'T BE RICH!

SPEAKING OF *FABULOUS* CELEBRITIES, THE FIRST ARE ARRIVING ON THE RED CARPET AS WE SPEAK. LOOK HERE--

IT'S JIZZLETON CRAMSWORTH III WITH SQUEAK ASSPLAY SQUELCH SAINT RUGGLES, THE OSCAR-WINNING DUO BEHIND THE HIT DRAMATIC SERIES *COCKUCOPIA!*

SUCK IT!

OH, LOOK! IT'S *FREDRICK VON LASERDICK*, THE FAMOUS SERIAL KILLER!

BOW BEFORE MY LIGHT!

OVER HERE WE HAVE PORTLAND'S HIT INDIE BAND *THE WHEEL BARROW BOYS!* SO SENSELESSLY OLD-TIMEY.

*HOLD ON!*

I'M GETTING WORD NOW THAT THE ILLUSTRIOUS MR. FLAK IS READY TO ADDRESS THE PARTYGOERS!

HELLO, RICH AND FAMOUS PEOPLE.

SAD NEWS I'M AFRAID.

MR. FLAK CAN'T BE HERE. HE'S SUFFERING A *KILLER* HEAD COLD.

MR. FLAK HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY AND GONE TO INCREDIBLE LENGTHS TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THIS INCREDIBLE NEW CITY.

LET'S NOT LET HIM DOWN.

PARTY LIKE IT'S THE LAST NIGHT OF YOUR LIVES, MY FRIENDS.

BECAUSE IT IS.

OH, WELL, OKAY!

MY GOSH, THIS IS GOING TO BE SUCH A, LIKE, TOTALLY AWESOME PARTY!

UH, WHAT WAS THAT LAST PART HE SAID?

GUGH... THIS WHOLE GAME IS TOO EASY.

THESE STUPID PEOPLE ARE ALL SO... STUPID.

SHOULD BE THE BEST NIGHT OF MY LIFE.

FREE FROM FLAK.

ABOUT TO BECOME THE MOST FAMOUS PERSON IN HISTORY.

RULER OF ALL MANKIND.

SO, WHY AREN'T I HAPPY?

-SIGH- KILLING TEN BILLION PEOPLE SHOULD BE EXCITING.

MAYBE IT'S TOO BIG A NUMBER FOR IT TO REGISTER.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

CAN YOU GET YOUR HEAD AROUND THE SCALE OF IT, BOSS?

NO?

-SIGH-

MAYBE MY PLAN SUCKS.

MAYBE HITLER WAS RIGHT.

GHAKK!

TRIGGER WARNING!

I DIDN'T ORDER BIRDS.

IN FACT, I ORDERED **NO** BIRDS.

LIKE ALL BIRDS **DEAD.** WHO COULD...

YOU **GOTTA** BE FUCKING KIDDING ME.

Casino

ZOOM

00:09

A BOSS BATTLE!

I **KNEW** I COULD COUNT ON YOU, DEBBIE.

BET YOU'RE FEELING ALL SUPER FULL OF RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION.

YOU SHOULD BE THANKING ME.

I FREED YOU FROM YOUR REAL ADDICTION.

FLUSHED YOUR LED STASH DOWN THE DRAIN.

THE LAST OF THE WOODS GATHER BEHIND ME.

THEY NEED ONLY A NUDGE TO JOIN.

WAITING FOR THE CALL.

WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO PAY MANKIND BACK.

COME AT ME WITH YOUR WOODLAND CREATURES, BRO!

I HEAR HER ANGER.

HER SADNESS.

SHE'S SICK.

NEARLY DEAD.

BUT HER HEART BEATS.

SHE IS WILLING TO FIGHT.

AND I AM HER SERVANT COME FOR RECLAMATION.

COME FOR REDEMPTION.

THE KATANA
777
COME FOR REVENGE.

BLAM

BLAM BLAM

BLAM BLAM BLAM

GROWL!

CRAWR!

RUN!

--MY MINK!

--MY BUTLER--

MY NET WORTH--

WOW!

JUST... MAN. THAT WAS INCREDIBLE!

ABSOLUTELY NEVER EXPECTED THAT.

HOO-WEE--

--NOW WE GOT OURSELVES A GAME!

A REAL PARTY TO--

SHUREP

HUTGHAKK--!

THE PIETY BRIGADE!

YOU HANDED ME OVER TO YOUR CORPORATE OVERLORDS-- MADE ME FLAK'S SLAVE.

AND NOW YOU COME RIDING IN HERE, THE PLACE YOU DESTROYED--

--LIKE SOME KIND OF SUPERCHARGED QUEEN OF THE FOREST?

WHHOOSH

AS IF.

BULLSHIT.

YOU DESTROYED THE LAST GREEN PLACE ON EARTH, DAVEY.

AND NOW MOTHER EARTH IS COMING TO FUCK YOUR ASS.

GRAKK--!

KRITCCH

OH YEAH! SHE'S ALL FIRED UP!

SHIT IS ON FLEEK!

LET'S TURN UP THIS MAMBO JAMBO!

WITH EVERYONE IN THE WORLD WATCHING.

AN APPETIZER--

--TO THE GREATEST MASS SUICIDE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD!

YOU WANT TO PLAY WITH ME, SISTER?

SHWK

HERE'S A TASTE OF WHAT'S TO COME!

HAHAHA!

BLAM

NEXT STOP--

SHK

THE ENTIRE WORLD!

YOU SET ME FREE, DEBS!

DOES THAT MAKE ALL THIS YOUR DOING AS WELL?

HE LAUGHS FROM A HUNDRED MOUTHS--

--THEN NOTHING.

KAZUMI BELIEVED IN ME.

BELIEVED I COULD DO THIS.

PROVE HER RIGHT.

SHUT DOWN DAVEY'S CONTROL.

HEAL HIS VICTIMS.

CASINO

GUHH... MY HEAD'S ACHIN'.

WHAT THE HELL...

USE WHAT I HAVE LEFT--

AND KILL HIM.

THERE'S NO ONE ELSE TO SAVE YOU NOW, DAVEY.

NO PUPPETS TO PROTECT YOU FROM--

DEBBIE.

I SAW TEDDY DIE.

I AM DEAD.

YEARS AGO REALLY.

YOU KEPT ME ON LIFE SUPPORT A LOT LONGER THAN YOU SHOULD HAVE.

HOW...

DAVEY DOWNLOADED MY CONSCIOUSNESS.

PROMISED TO LET ME SAY GOOD-BYE.

TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH IT MEANT TO ME THAT YOU NEVER LEFT ME.

TEDDY...

THAT YOU WERE THE ONE BRIGHTNESS IN MY ENTIRE LIFE.

REMEMBER HERE, ON THE LAKE, WE HAD IT ALL FOR A BIT.

HOLD ON TO THAT.

LISTEN TO ME. WHAT DAVEY IS GOING TO OFFER YOU--DON'T DO IT.

NOT FOR ANYTHING. PROMISE ME--

TEDDY--?!

FUCK OFF, TEDDY! YOU SPOILED MY SECRET!

MUGHLE

FRANKLY, DEBS SHOULD BE **OFFENDED** YOU DON'T THINK SHE CAN MAKE HER OWN CHOICES.

WHAT IS SHE, SOME KIND OF RUDDERLESS CODEPENDENT?

THIS ISN'T A GAME.

OF COURSE IT IS!

IMAGINE IT FROM THE CLARITY OF YOUR DEATHBED, LOOKING BACK ON IT ALL. WHAT WILL YOU SEE?

A GAME.

A GAME YOU LOST DUE TO FEAR, SADNESS, AND ANXIETY, AND ALL THE SHIT YOU COULDN'T GET OVER.

UNLESS YOU CHANGE THINGS UP, MAKE ONE SINGLE SMART CHOICE.

LOOK AROUND-- TEDDY, THE GREEN GARDENS OF TOKYO, AND ETERNAL LIFE.

YOU CAN SINK INTO THE FEED AND HAVE IT ALL.

SNAP!

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TELL ME I WAS **RIGHT.**

YOU MIGHT AS WELL DO IT.

EVERYONE WHO'S EVERYONE WILL BE HERE BY MIDNIGHT.

SO.

WHADDA YA SAY?

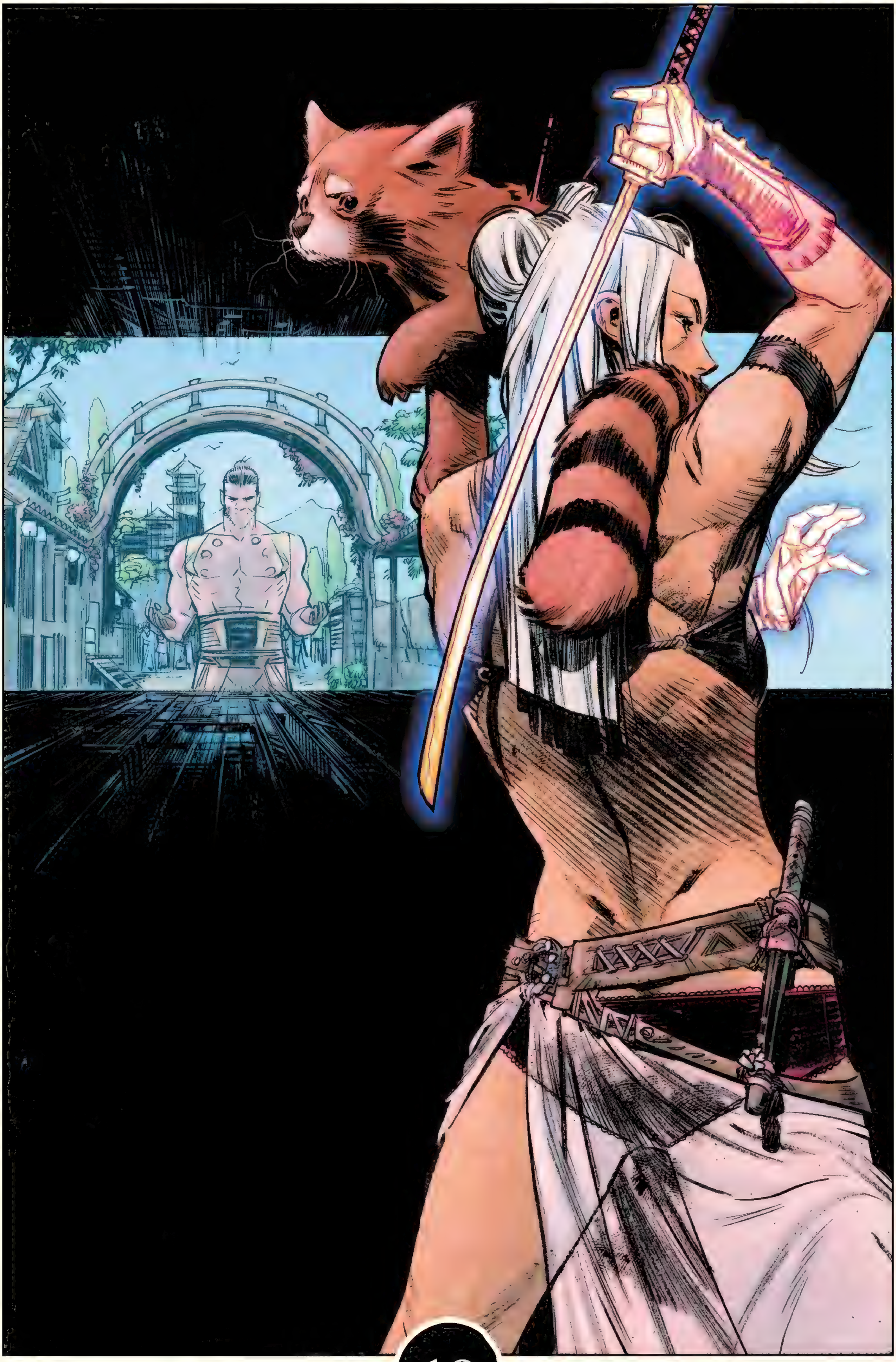
DOES THE STORY END WITH ONE SMART THING?

KLIK-WHRRL

TO HAVE EVERYTHING SHE EVER WANTED, DOES THE QUEEN OF **NATURE** BOW TO THE KING OF **TECHNOLOGY?**

THE CHOICE IS YOURS, DEBS, YOU CAN EITHER HAVE **EVERYTHING...**

**...OR NOTHING.**



I NEVER WANTED TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

I JUST DIDN'T WANT IT TO CORRUPT ME.

AVOID JOINING A POPULATION ADDICTED TO CONNECTIVITY AT THE COST OF INTIMACY.

TO FIGHT BECOMING SELF-OBSESSED WHILE THEY FELL INTO THEIR NEED FOR ACCEPTANCE.

THEY MASTERED GROUPTHINK AND CALLED IT PROGRESS. THEY MADE REBELLION UNCOOL.

THEY ALL GOT ON A TRAIN AND JOINED HANDS, AND IF YOU QUESTION IT OR DEBATE THE CHOICE OF DIRECTION--

YOU'RE THROWN OFF.

ALWAYS THE GHOST AT THE FEAST! SHITTING ON MY GOOD FUN.

BUT THIS **IS** IT! TIME TO CHOOSE: YOU EITHER GET ETERNAL LIFE WITH TEDDY--

OR YOU GET TO PLAY THE HERO AND GET A BIG, FAT, FUCKING **NOTHING!**

WHAT'LL IT BE? WHAT DO YOU REALLY WANT?

ONCE UPON A TIME I HAD A YOUTHFUL EXUBERANCE TO BURN IT ALL DOWN.

BUT I GREW UP.

ALL I WANTED WAS TO LIVE SOMEPLACE IN PEACE WITH THE MAN I LOVE.

YOU'RE **NOT** GOING TO KILL ME.

BUT DAVEY TOOK THAT AWAY.

AND IF I DON'T STOP HIM...

HE'S GOING TO TAKE IT AWAY FROM EVERYONE.

YOU...

WHAT?

NOT UNTIL YOU HEAR ME SAY YOU'RE RIGHT, THAT THIS PLANET IS DEAD AND WE SHOULD ALL RETREAT TO YOUR FANTASY WORLD.

BUT I WON'T, DAVEY.

YOU KNOW YOU CAN PREDICT ANYTHING WITH A GOOD ALGORITHM?

KILLKWRRHLL

MINE GAVE ME 90% ODDS YOU'D CAVE IN **RIGHT NOW**, FACE TO FACE WITH THE MAN WHO KILLED YOUR GREAT LOVE, HAVING SPENT YOUR EMP JUICE, MY BIG GUN SHOW...

IT WAS ALMOST **GUARANTEED** TO PUSH YOU TO DO THE SMART THING.

THE ALGORITHM IS NEVER WRONG.

IT SAID IF YOU DON'T GIVE IN NOW, IT'LL JUST TAKE A MINUTE.

YOU DON'T THINK SO-- **BUT YOU TOTALLY WILL.**

C'MON. WHAT GOOD WILL ALL YOUR IDEALS BE WHEN EVERY PERSON ON EARTH IS DEAD **HERE** BUT ALIVE **ONLINE?**

YOU'LL MISS THE WHOLE PARTY!

THAT'S **NOT** GOING TO HAPPEN!

**WHAT?** YOU MISSING THE PARTY?

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KILL ANYONE!

THAT'S RIGHT! I'M **NOT** KILLING **ANYONE**-- SIMPLY MIGRATING HUMANITY TO A NEW SERVER!

**MY** SERVER.

LOOK--I CAN FEEL THE COGNITIVE DISSONANCE BOILING INSIDE YOU: WHAT YOU WANT VERSUS WHAT YOU'RE USED TO DOING.

WWRRRLLLL

BUT IT'S ALL GOING TO BE OKAY!

TRUST ME! I KNOW **EXACTLY** HOW THIS ENDS.

COME ON UP, I'LL SHOW YOU...

WELCOME TO PROFESSOR SPARKLEDICK'S DREAM EMPORIUM!

YOU HATED TECHNOLOGY YOUR WHOLE LIFE, RALLIED AGAINST IT, WAGGED YOUR FINGER, AND SNEERED DOWN YOUR NOSE, LIKE SOME STODGY, OLD MAN BARKING AT THE CLOUDS.

BUT **LOOK** AT WHAT IT CAN OFFER!

SWEET TEDDY, IN **PARADISE**-- JUST ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT MONITOR!

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS **ADMIT** THERE IS **NOTHING** WRONG WITH IT!

ADMIT THIS IS A BETTER TOMORROW FOR ALL THOSE HOPELESS PEOPLE OUT THERE, DESPERATE FOR A **BETTER** LIFE.

DEBBIE... DON'T LISTEN TO HIM.

PLANET TRAUMA!

WHERE THERE'S NO SICKNESS, NO FAMINE, NO WANT, NO STARVATION.

THEY'RE ALL GOING TO **THANK ME** FOR IT.

YOU'LL SEE.

LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF MANKIND. PEOPLE LOVE TO CHOOSE GROUPTHINK OVER INDEPENDENT THOUGHT.

LOVE. IT.

PEOPLE **NEED** TO STAND IN A LARGE CROWD OF OTHERS WHO AGREE WITH THEM.

FLAK GOT THAT MUCH RIGHT.

IT FEELS BETTER THAN ANYTHING-- RELIEVES YOU OF THE BURDEN OF CHOICE.

**THIS** IS WHAT PEOPLE WANT, DEBBIE.

**EVERYONE** WILL GET **EVERYTHING** THEY **EVER** WANTED!

TAPPITY TAP TYPE

WHAT ARE YOU FIGHTING FOR? WHAT'S LEFT?

REALITY SUCKS.

IN THE REAL WORLD TEDDY'S A COLD, FARTING CORPSE.

BUT IN THERE, HE'S **ALIVE,** FREE OF HIS ADDICTIONS! WAITING FOR YOU IN **PARADISE.**

HOW MANY TIMES AM I GOING TO HAVE TO TELL YOU, **NO?**

THAT'S THE THING ABOUT YOU ADDICTS. ANYONE CAN SAY "NO" A FEW TIMES, BUT YOU GIVE 'EM ENOUGH OPPORTUNITIES...

...AND EVENTUALLY THEY **ALL** CRACK.

I'M NO ADDICT.

WHAT?! **COME ON!**

YOU CAN'T BE CODEPENDENT **AND** DELUSIONAL.

TOO MANY BROKEN BITS FOR ONE PERSON.

REFUSING TO ABANDON SOMEONE YOU LOVE ISN'T CODEPENDENCE.

THEN **DON'T** ABANDON HIM. **GO TO HIM.**

ONCE YOU TELL ME I WAS **RIGHT** AND YOU WERE **WRONG.**

HE'S GOING TO KILL EVERYBODY, DEBBIE.

WOULD THAT BE SO BAD?

YOU'RE THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERED HERE.

BUT THIS...

YOU'RE ALL I KNOW.

I'M JUST A BROKEN THING YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH.

I KNOW THE REAL YOU...

THE GOOD HEART INSIDE THE BOY I FELL IN LOVE WITH.

I NEED YOU.

BUT NOT LIKE THIS.

NOT IF IT MEANS YOU COMPROMISING EVERYTHING YOU ARE.

FUCKING CHRIST! C'MON ALREADY!

JUST SAY IT!

I'VE ALREADY CURSED MYSELF, DEBBIE--

--YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO BELIEVED REAL LIFE WAS WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

YOU CAN'T LET HIM ERASE ALL OF THAT BECAUSE OF ME.

IT'S NOT GONNA HURT 'EM, YOU KNOW!

I'M JUST GOING TO USE THIS BROADCAST TOWER TO BODY PIRATE THE UNWASHED MASSES, AND WE'RE ALL GOING TO HAVE ONE BIG MASS SUICIDE.

ZZZAKT

PRESTO DEADO!

EVERYONE WAKES UP DOWNLOADED ONTO THE SERVER IN WHATEVER PERFECT WORLD THEY CAN IMAGINE!

NOBODY AROUND TO MOURN ANYTHING. WIN-WIN!

GET UP, DEBBIE. STOP HIM!

THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR ME HERE!

NOTHING WITHOUT YOU!

DAVEY'S RIGHT.

THE MAGIC WORDS!

NOW WE'RE OFF TO THE RACES!

GET UP, DEBBIE!

GET UP AND STOP HIM!

TOO LATE!

I-I CAN FEEL THEM--ALL OF THEIR MINDS--OPENING UP--

--THE **ENTIRE** WORLD!

EVERY ONE OF YOU UNDER **MY** CONTROL!

DEBBIE!

OKAY--NOW, EVERYONE! **ON THE COUNT OF THREE WE ALL DIE!**

IT'S ALL GONNA BE BETTER IN

3

2

GORF--!

THOK

YHRAK!

FWKK

SHKK

WHMP

NOT YET! DON'T KILL ME YET!

YOU WILL LIVE TO SEE YOUR FAILURE.

STUK

HEY! GODDAMN YOU! THAT'S MINE!

GIMME THAT FUCKING HELMET!

QUICKLY.

SHOW HIM HE WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU.

USE THE TOWER TO SEND AN EMP ACROSS THE GLOBE-- TURN IT ALL OFF.

I CAN'T... TAKARA, I-I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH--

MY MOTHER BELIEVED YOU DO.

MAKE HER DREAM REAL-- TEAR IT ALL DOWN.

BLAMM

HRUK--!

TAKARA!

PUT ON THE HELMET, DEBBIE!

BLAMM

BLAMM

BLAMM

BLAMM

YOU'RE NOT GONNA FUCK THIS UP FOR ME!

DO IT.

TEDDY, IF I DO...

YOU SPENT YOUR LIFE CARRYING ME-- YOU WERE ALWAYS MY CONSCIENCE, NOW LET ME BE YOURS.

SAVE THE WORLD.

LET ME GO.

GRADOOM

BLAM

GHA! YOU DUMB IDIOT DUMMY!

I LOVE YOU, TEDDY.

IF YOU DO THIS HE'LL DIE! HE'LL BE GONE FOREVER!

AND SO WILL YOU.

THE GREATEST CHALLENGE ANY OF US FACE IS CHANGE.

YERAGH--!
THE WORLD WOULD NEVER WILLINGLY UNPLUG ITSELF.
NEVER CHOOSE TO FACE THE MESS ALL AROUND US.
DDWWWUMMMMM
SO I'LL CHOOSE FOR THEM.
DDUURRRRRRWWOOOOOM

TEDDY WAS MY ONLY FAMILY.

THE ONE PERSON I HAD IN THE WORLD.

ALL I EVER WANTED WAS FOR HIM TO UNPLUG.

TO GET CLEAN.

I KNEW ONCE HE DID I'D BE HAPPY.

BUT YOU CAN'T LET YOUR HOPE FOR JOY REST ON THE SHOULDERS OF SOMEONE ELSE.

SOME IRONY.

THE GIRL WHO COULDN'T FACE HER OWN BULLSHIT...

...SUDDENLY FORCING EVERYONE ELSE TO.

ONE YEAR LATER.

THERE IS SOMETHING INSIDE EACH OF US THAT TELLS US WE'RE UNIMPORTANT.

HURRY UP! WE'RE **SUPER** LATE!

SOME INSISTING ASSHOLE WHO LOVES TO REMIND US WE'RE JUST MOTES OF DUST WITH NO GREATER PURPOSE.

I THINK THAT'S WHY WE CREATED GOD, SOMEONE WHO CARED, WHO VALUED EACH OF US AS **SPECIAL.**

KEEP UP THEN!

BUT OVER TIME THAT STOPPED WORKING.

WE NEEDED SOME NEW TRICK TO PUT US IN THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE. TO DISPROVE THAT NAGGING VOICE.

A NEW, DIGITAL WORLD WHERE WE WERE EACH THE SPECIAL STAR OF OUR OWN MOVIE.

BUT WHAT IF WE DIDN'T NEED A GOD OR A FANTASY TO TELL US THAT WE'RE SPECIAL?

WHAT IF ACCEPTING ONE SIMPLE TRUTH WOULD'VE MADE ALL THE PAIN GO AWAY?

OUR LIVES ARE MEANINGFUL.

SLOW POKE!

IF ONLY TO US.

AND THOSE WE LOVE.

EVEN IF THAT'S ALL THERE IS.

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. TOMATOES CAN BE TRICKY, KIM.

KATANA

LET'S GIVE IT A LITTLE FAIRY DUST.

WOW!

SORRY WE'RE LATE.
WE TRIED TO GET HERE ON TIME.
BUT FUN GOT IN THE WAY, DIDN'T IT?
FUN HAS A TENDENCY TO DO THAT.
BUT IT WON'T HELP THEM FEED THEMSELVES.
IF THESE ONETIME FAT AND RICH MEN CAN WORK A FIELD TO GROW THEIR SHARE, WE MUST HOLD ***EVERYONE*** TO THE SAME ACCOUNTABILITY.
ALL FUCKING DAY DIGGING IN THE DIRT, AND I BARELY HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT.
CURB YOUR DESIRE FOR MORE.
IT'S GOOD TO BE A LITTLE HUNGRY.
SURE DOESN'T ***FEEL*** GOOD.
DON'T FORGET WHAT INSTANT GRATIFICATION AND CONVENIENCE DID TO THE WORLD.
UGH. THOSE WHO WERE RICH COMPLAIN THE MOST.
THEY'LL COME AROUND.
DON'T WORRY. I'LL HELP YOU, DAD!
AND THE NEXT GENERATION WILL BE STRONGER, MORE IN SYNC WITH NATURE.
YOU'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE WITH THEM, TAKARA.
I'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE?
SO YOU'RE STILL DOING THIS?
SOMETIMES WE HOLD ONTO DREAMS FOR SO LONG WE ALLOW THEM TO SINK US.

I'LL NEVER LET GO OF TEDDY WHILE I'M HERE.

I HELPED DESTROY THIS PLACE.

BUT NOW IT'S FIXED.

MY WORK HERE IS DONE.

THESE PEOPLE NEED YOU.

BUT THERE ARE MANY OTHER PLACES I AM NEEDED MORE.

THE REFUGEES HAVE BEEN POURING IN. THEY ALL SAY THE SAME THING, THE WORLD IS A MESS.

I MADE THIS CHOICE FOR EVERY SINGLE PERSON ON EARTH.

SO IT'S ON ME TO GO AND HELP REGROW, TO TEACH PEOPLE HOW TO LIVE WITHOUT TECH.

I'LL BE ALONE.

I CAN'T LOSE YOU, TOO.

NEVER ALLOW YOUR HAPPINESS TO REST ON THE SHOULDERS OF OTHERS.

YOU'RE NEEDED HERE.

TO CONTINUE YOUR MOTHER'S TEACHING.

LET ME COME AND HELP YOU.

I ALSO NEED TO LEARN TO BE ALONE.

ZEUS' DZEK II

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.

TO FINALLY DEPEND ON MYSELF.

JEAN MURRAY 2016
HOLLINGSWORTH

EPILOGUE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE NOT COMING?

C'MON, MILES. WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN *ADVENTURE.*

WE HAVE TO GO FIGHT THE GORGON DOWN AT THE CREEK.

GO ON WITHOUT ME. I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU LATER.

DEEEP

HELLO!

DOT MATRIX WITH STEREO SOUND

PRESS START IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAY A GAME!

Nintendo GAME BOY

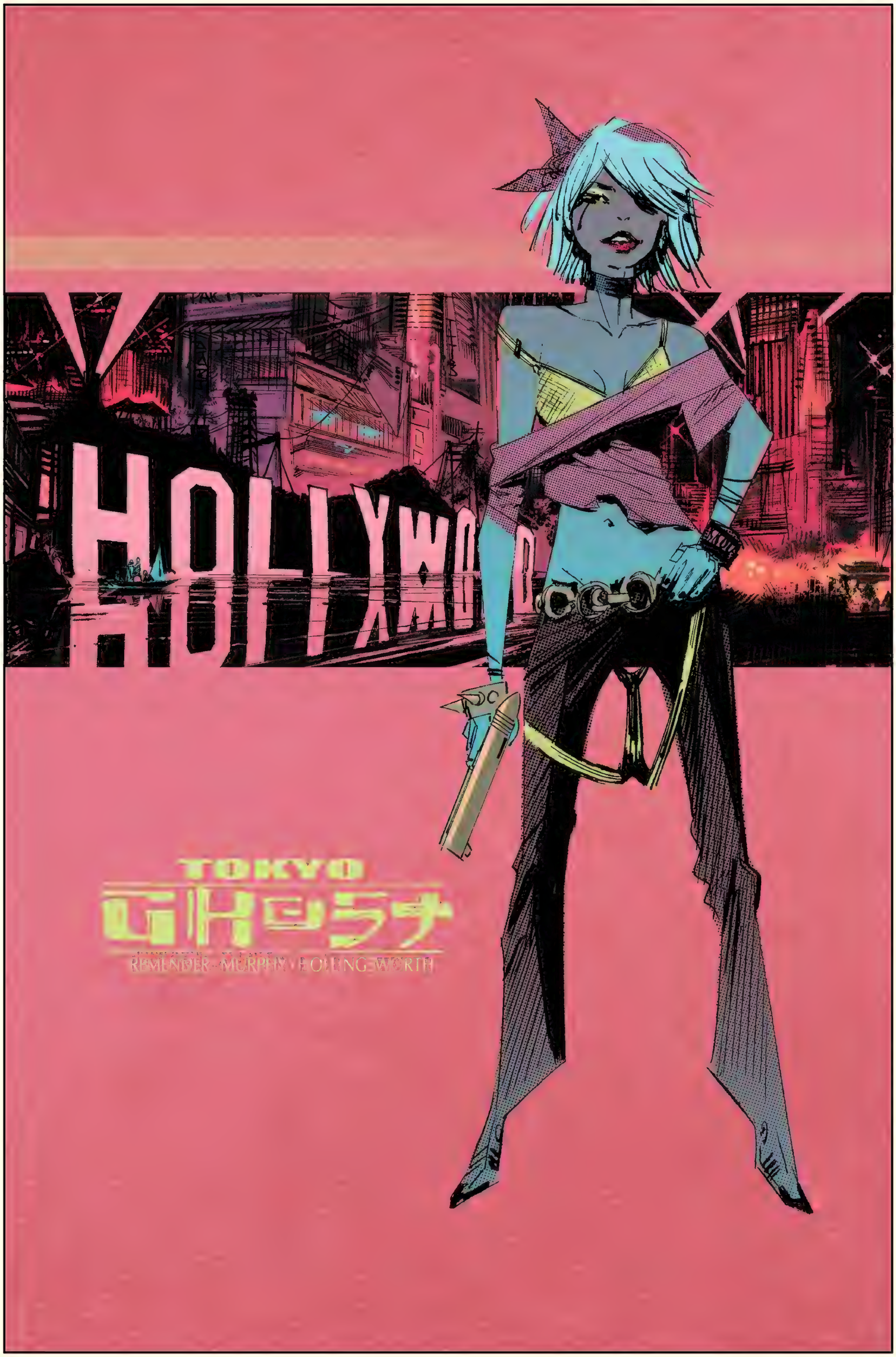
ECT

START

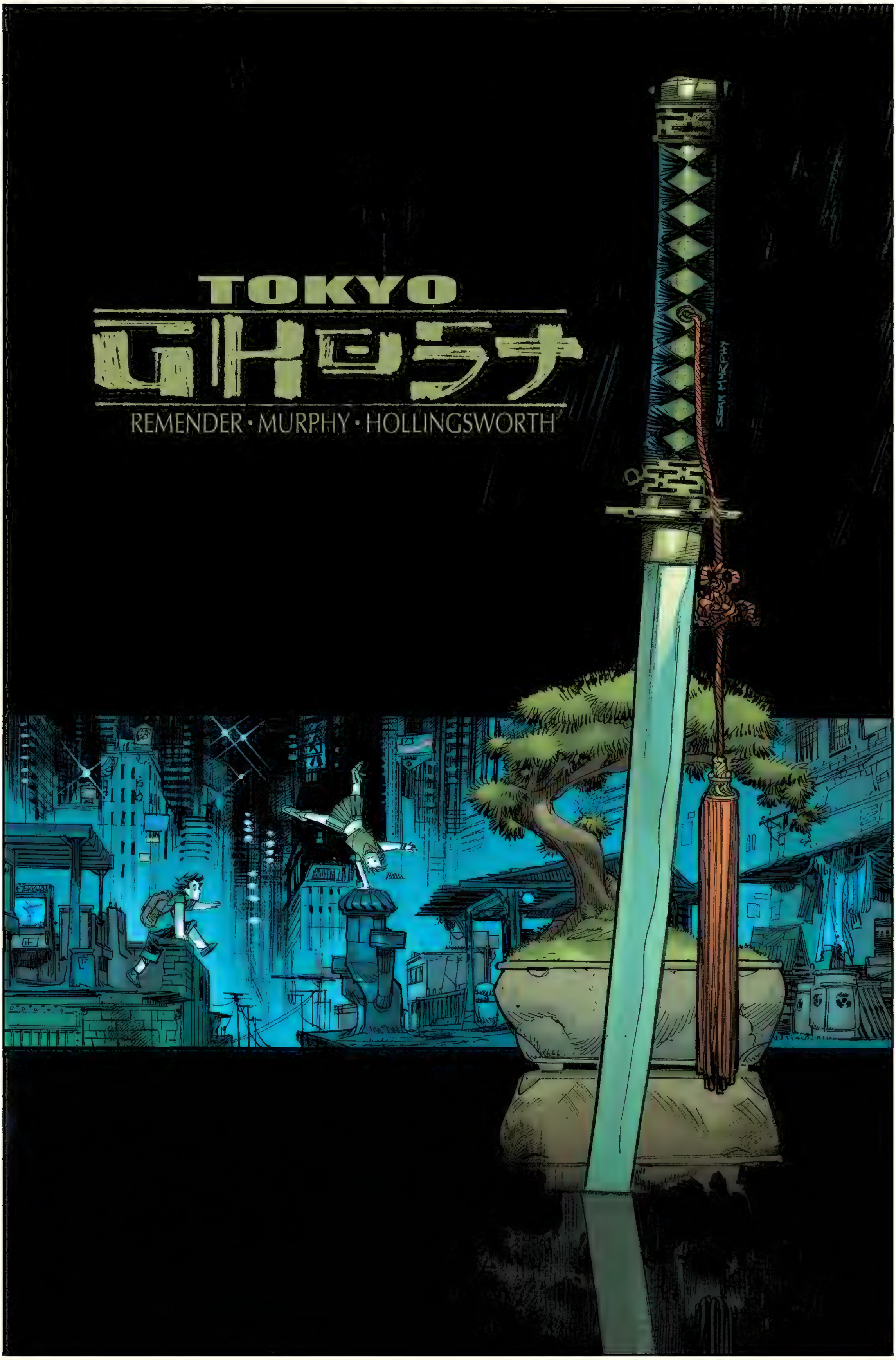
TOKYO

# GHOUL

# VARIANT COVER GALLERY




#1 VARIANT BY **SEAN MURPHY & DAVE McCAIG**




#2 VARIANT BY **SEAN MURPHY & DAVE McCAIG**

#3 VARIANT BY **SEAN MURPHY & DAVE McCAIG**

#4 VARIANT BY **SEAN MURPHY & DAVE McCAIG**

#5 VARIANT BY **SEAN MURPHY & DAVE McCAIG**

#6 VARIANT BY **MATTEO SCALERA & DAVE McCAIG**

#7 VARIANT BY **BENGAL**

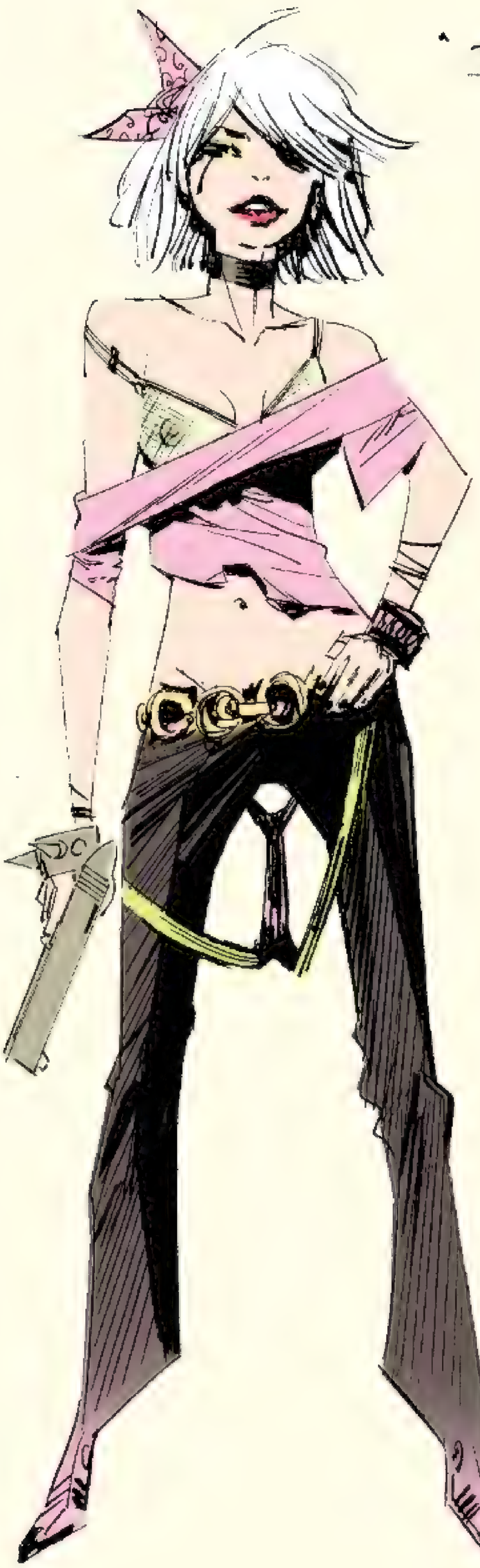
#8 VARIANT BY **ANDREW ROBINSON**

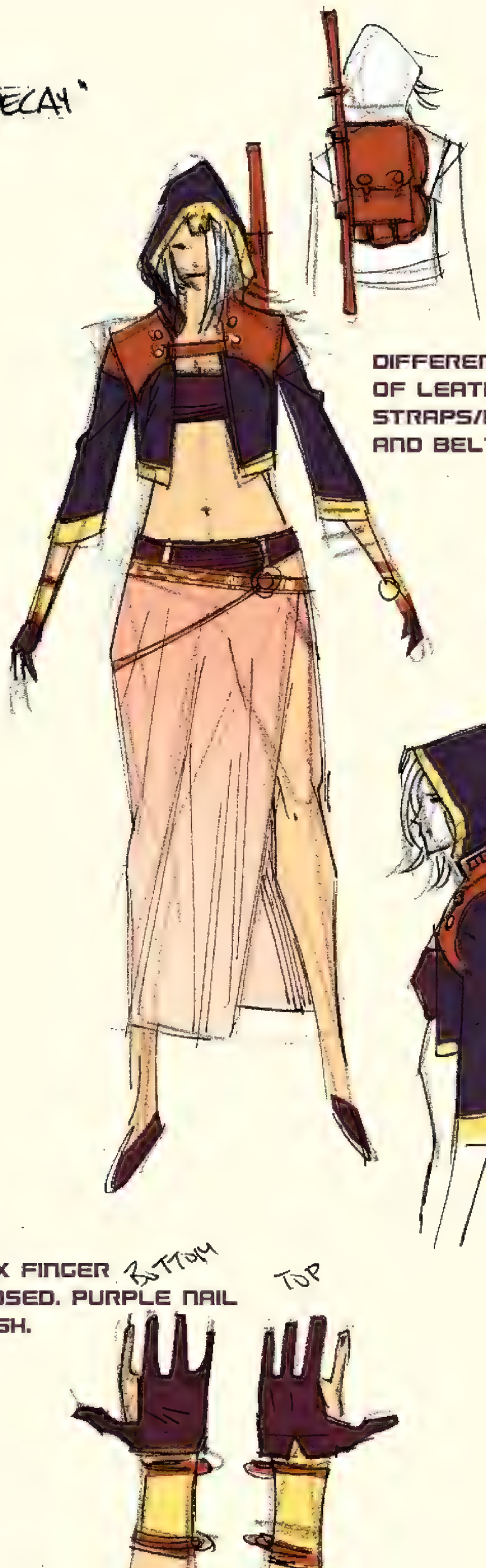
#9 VARIANT BY **RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE & DAVE McCAIG**

#10 VARIANT BY **DUSTIN NGUYEN**

# TOKYO GHOST SKETCHBOOK

`DEBBIE DECAY`

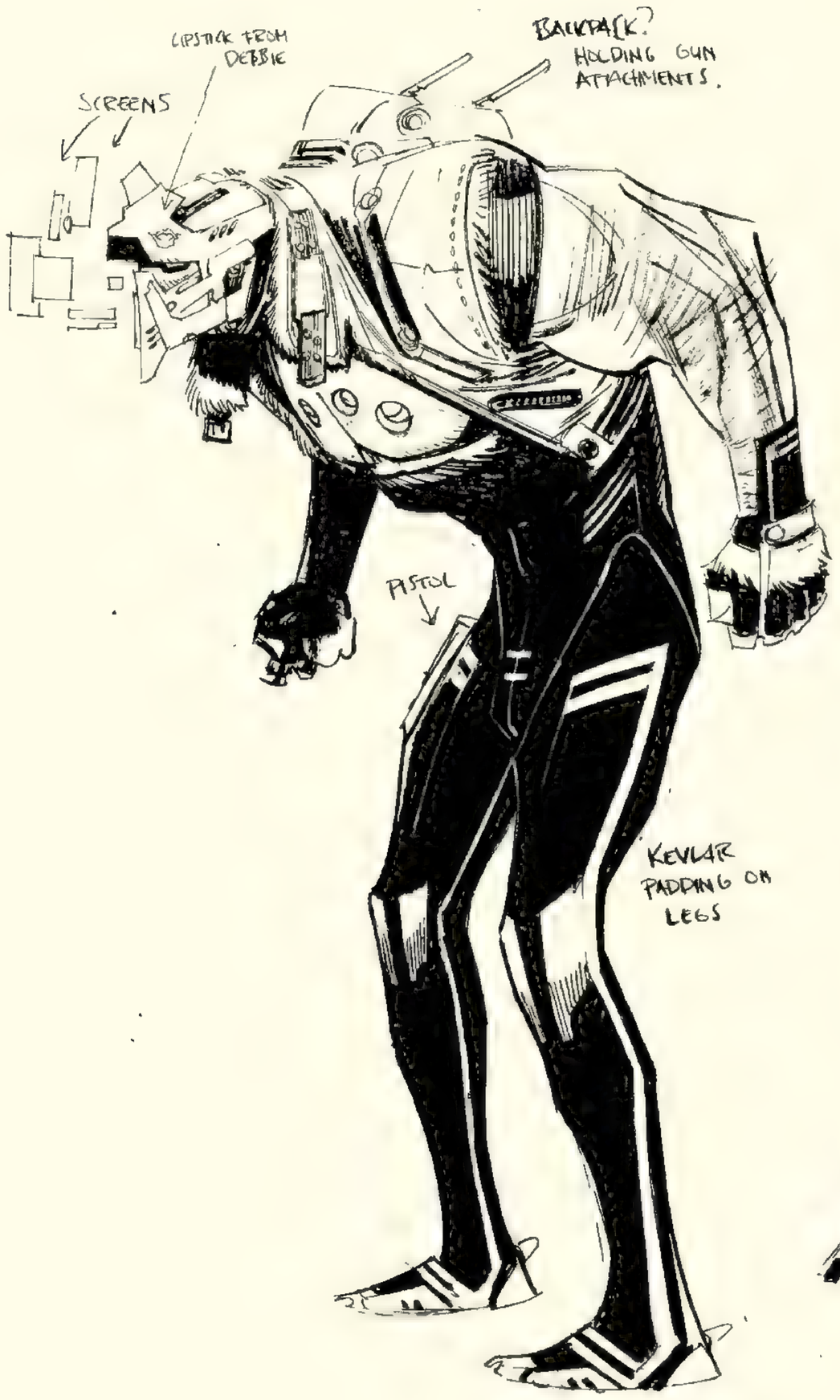


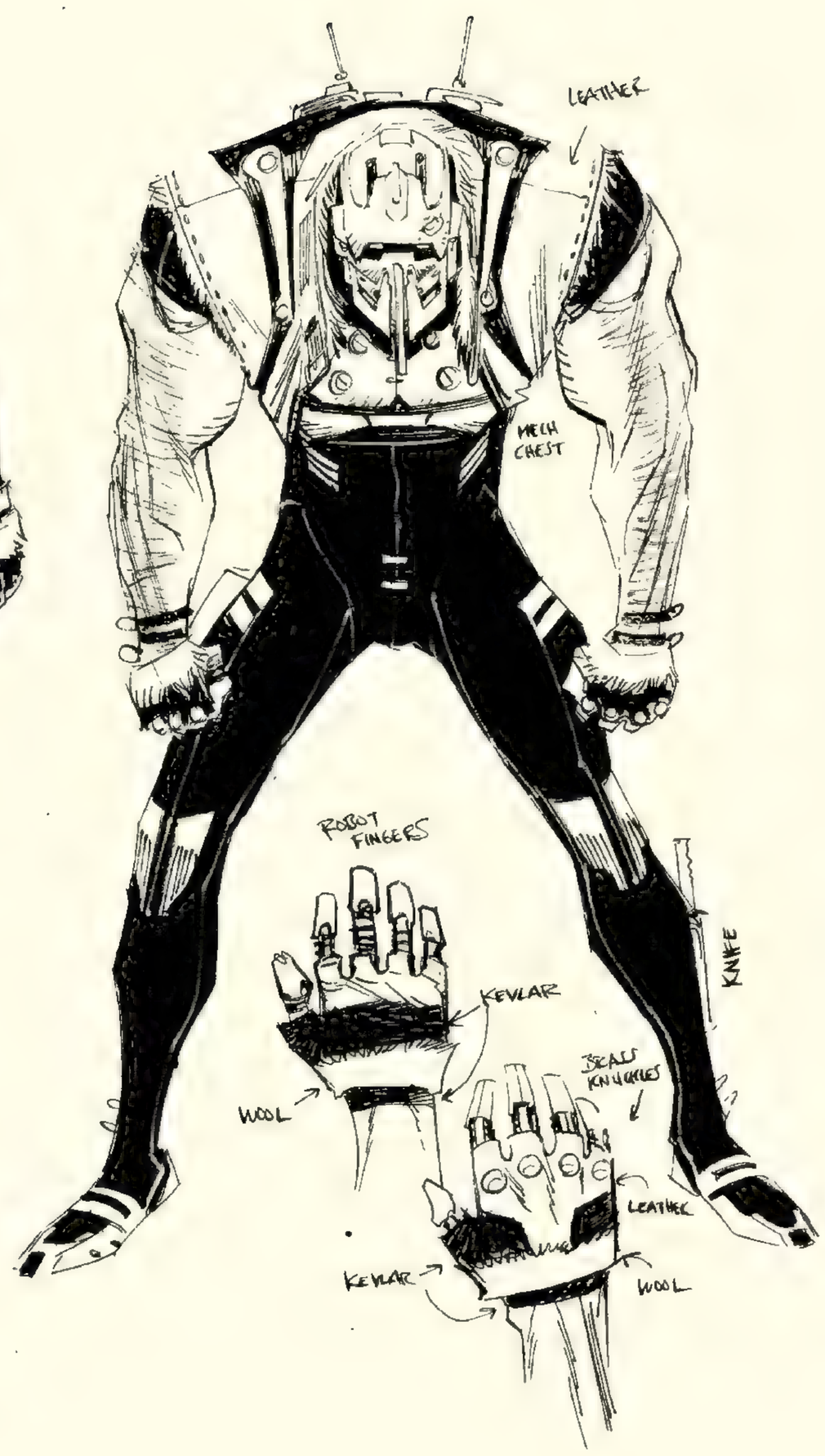


DIFFERENT SHADES OF LEATHER FOR STRAPS/BACKPACK AND BELT

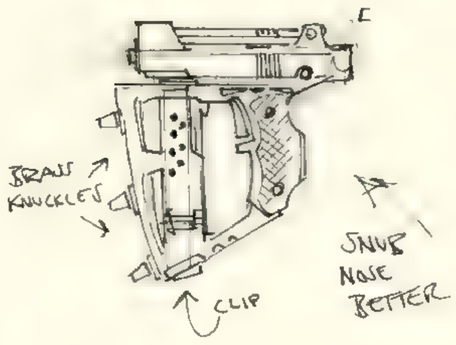
INDEX FINGER EXPOSED. PURPLE NAIL POLISH.

BOTTOM TOP

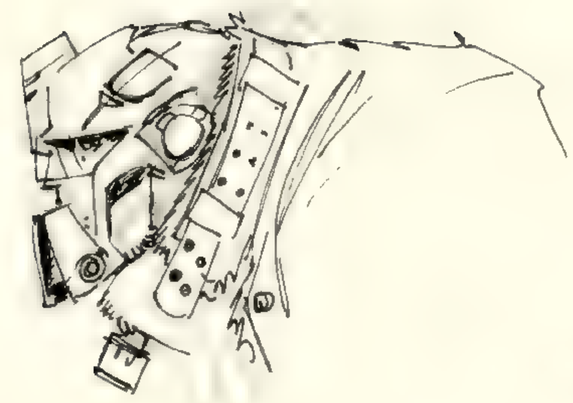


" LED DENT"

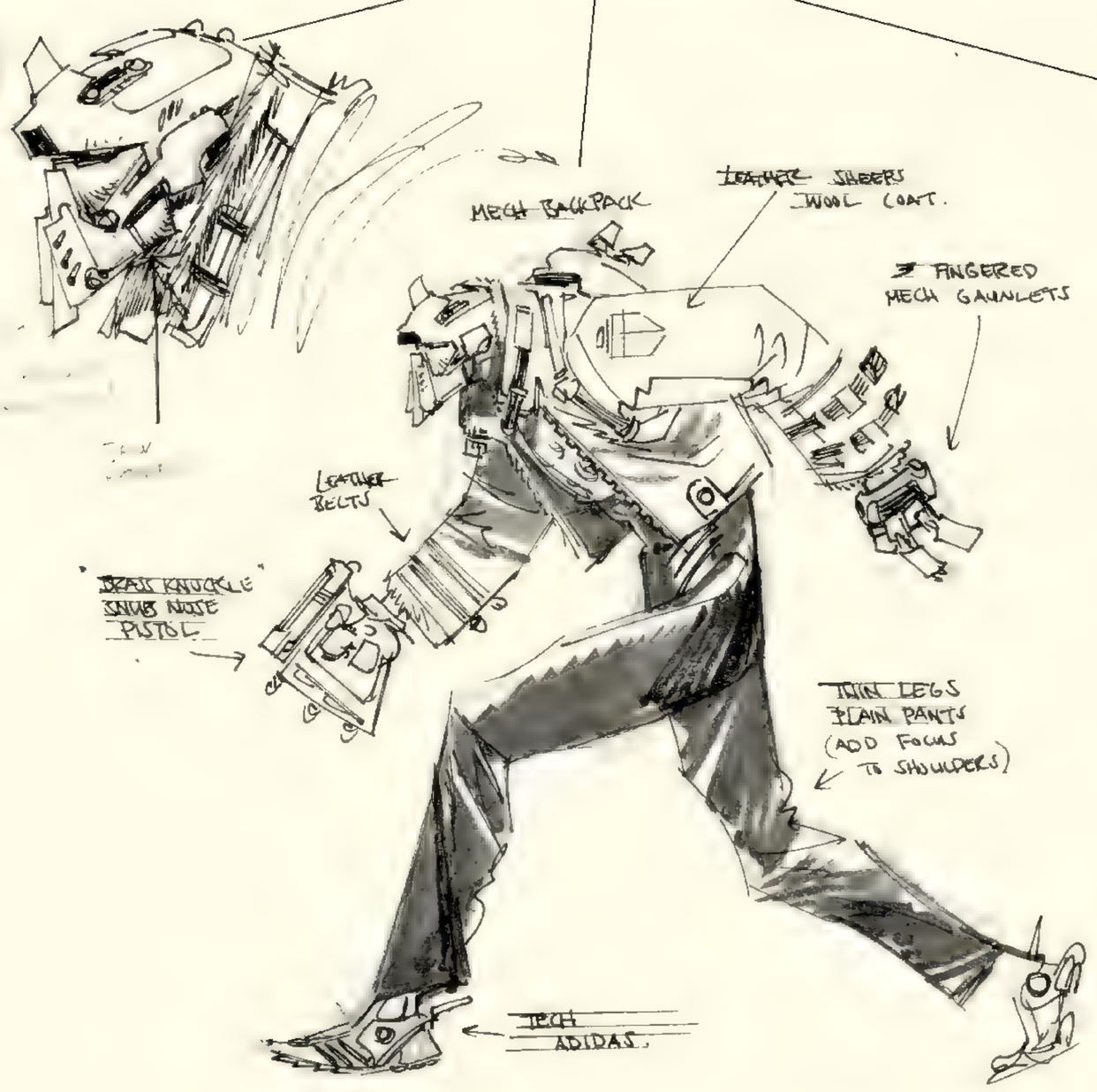


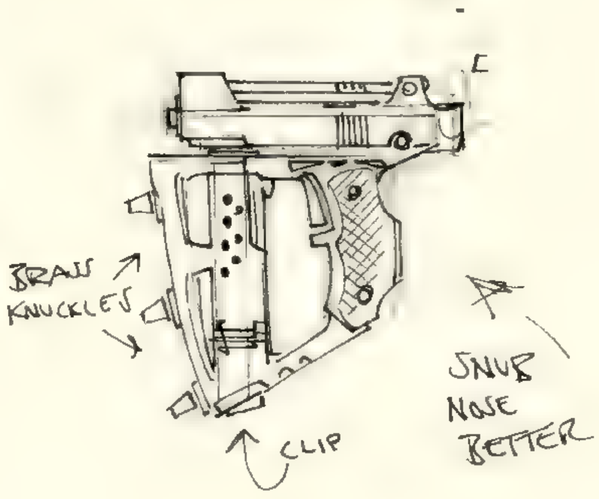
SAMURAI DENT



GORILLA-LIKE ARMS.
HUNCHED OVER AT ALL TIMES,
WEIGHED DOWN BY TECH.

THIS COMBO IS MY FAVORITE SO FAR.

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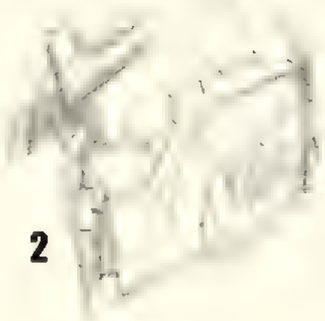

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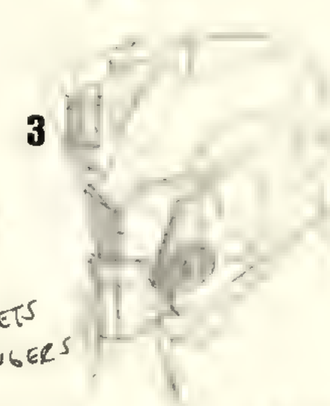

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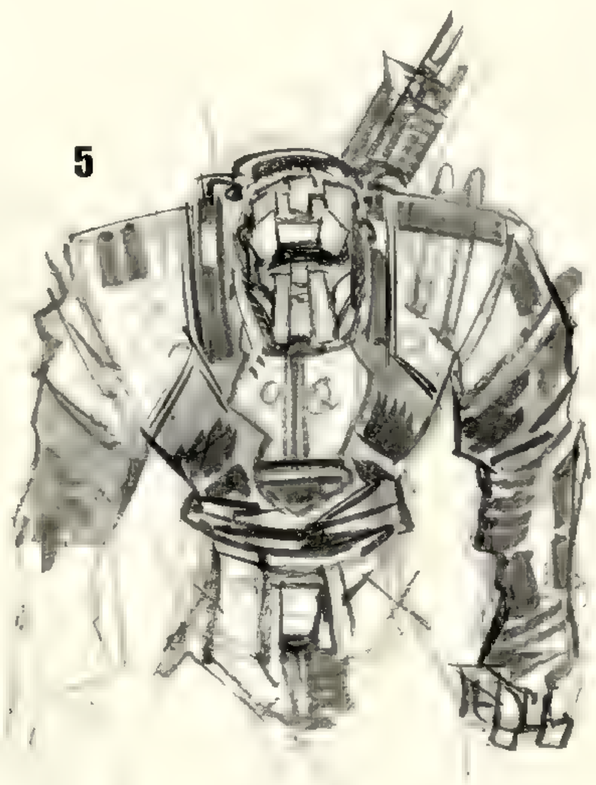

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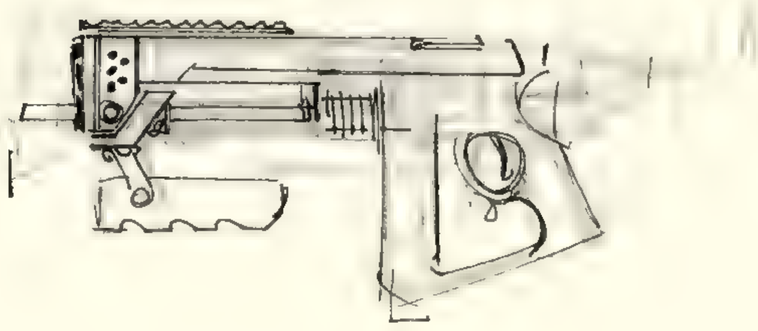
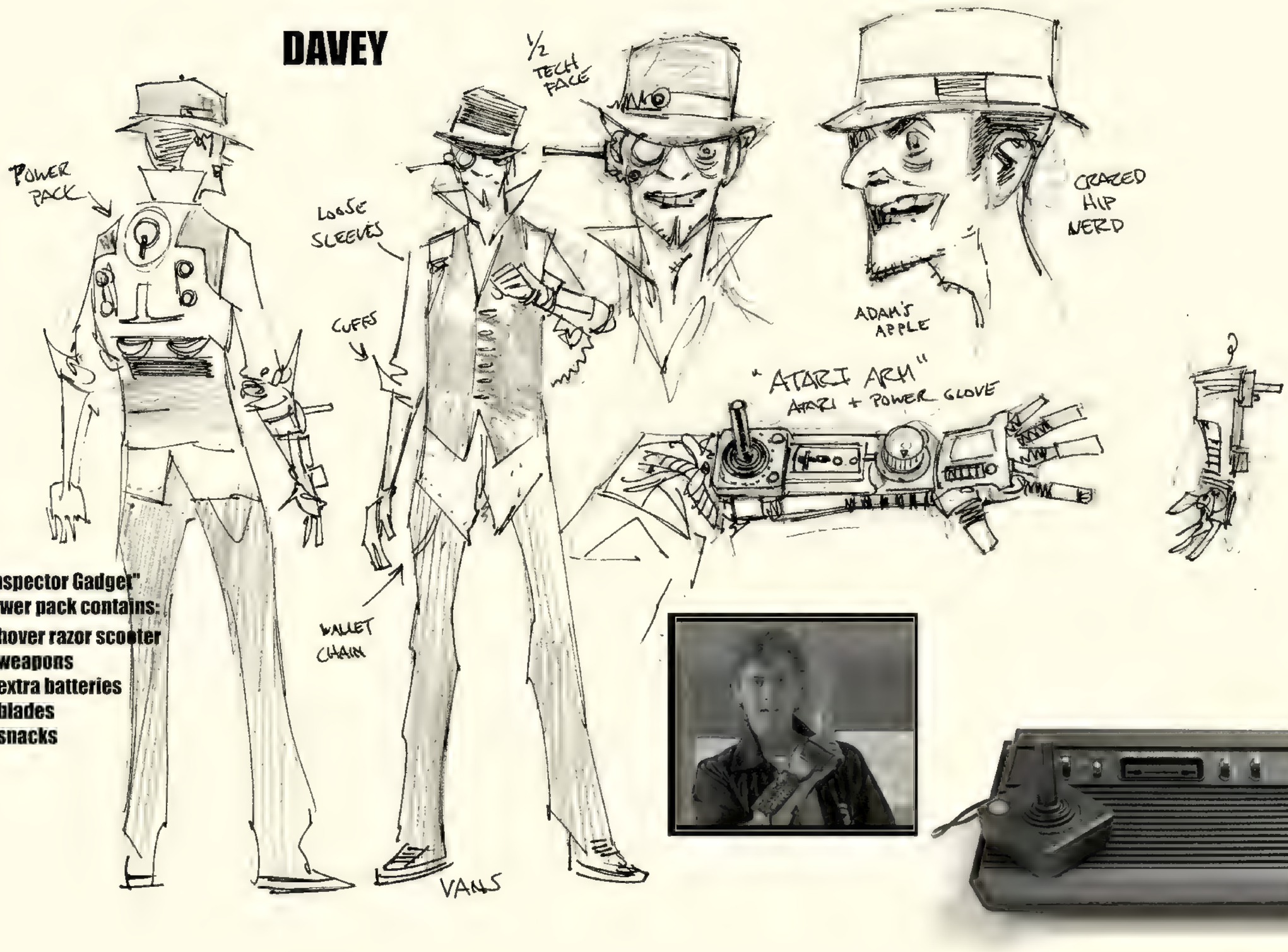


# DAVEY

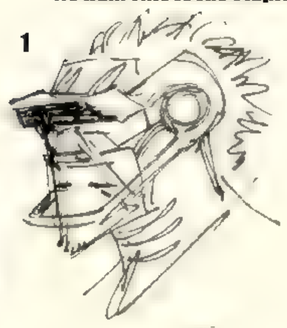



**"Inspector Gadget" power pack contains:**

- hover razor scooter
- weapons
- extra batteries
- blades
- snacks

No hair. This looks stupid.

1



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I like this skull look, but need more face.

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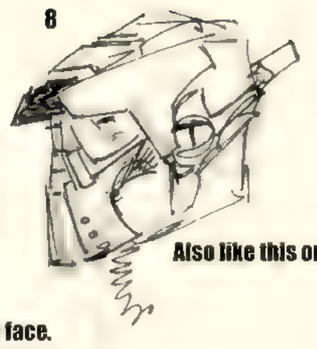

Also like this one.

I prefer to show some face.
Glass visor of some kind.

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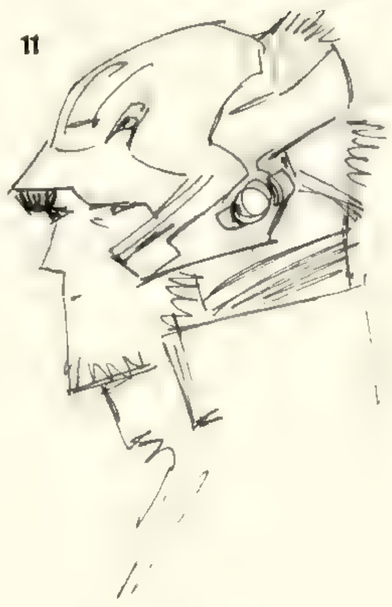

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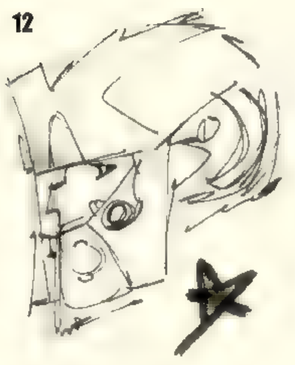
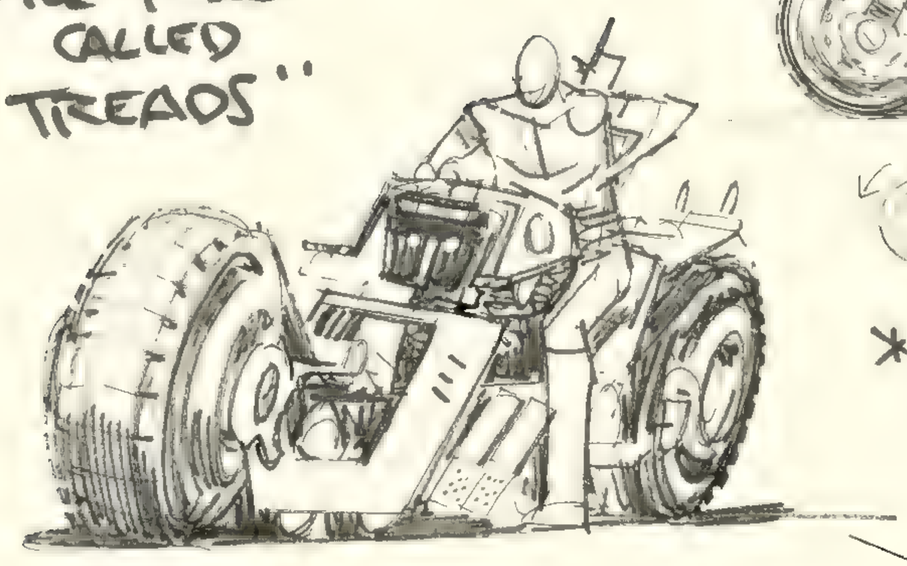
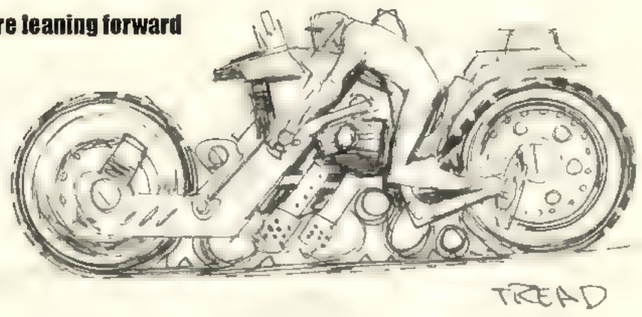


This one feels closer.

MOTORCYCLES CALLED "TREADS"



posture leaning forward



*SINGLE TANK TREAD W/ BIKE OVER IT.

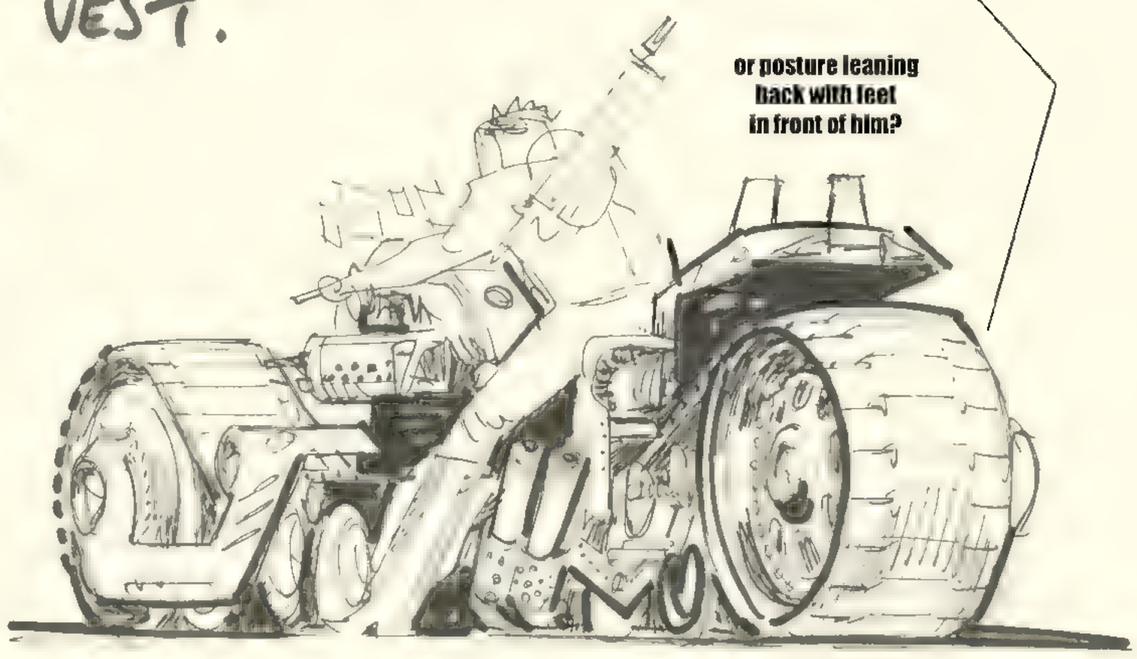
Dirt bike-style helmet

FUR COLLAR?

LEATHER VEST.

Round tread better. This one can lean, this one can't.

or posture leaning back with feet in front of him?



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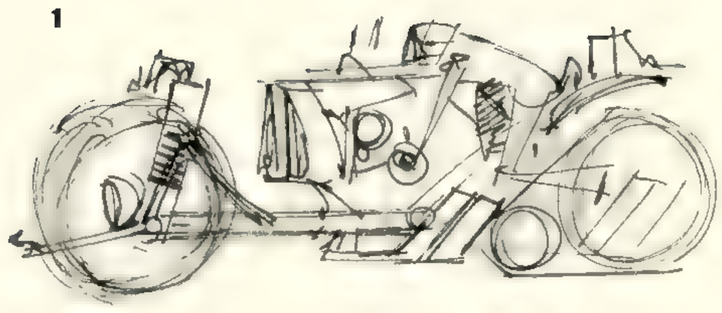

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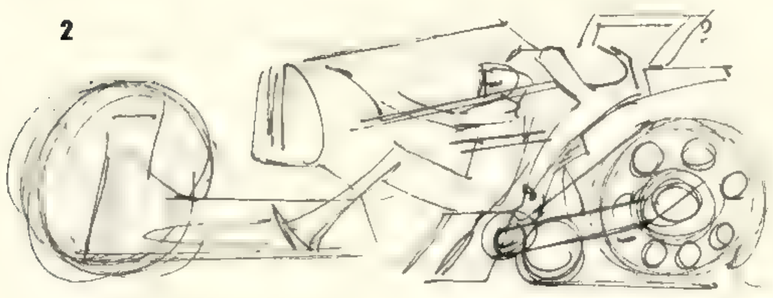

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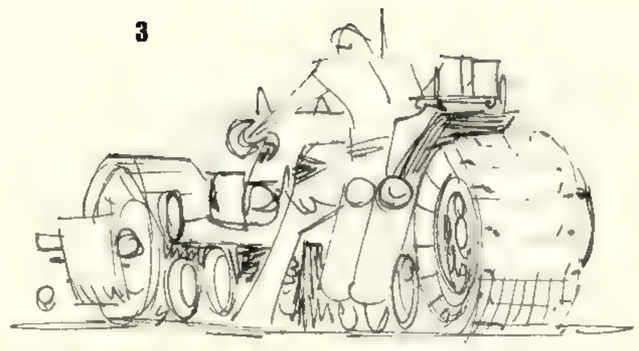

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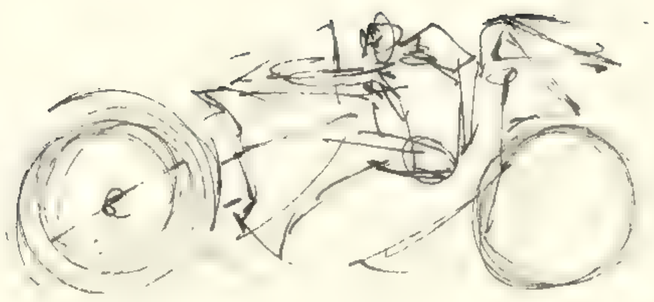

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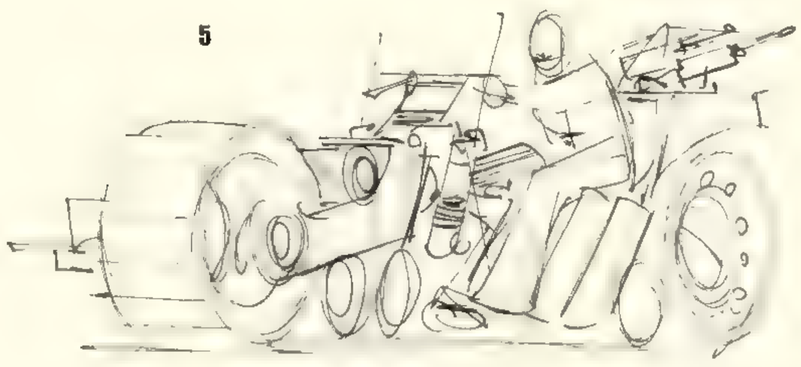

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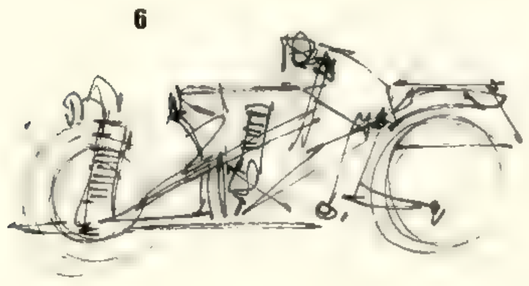

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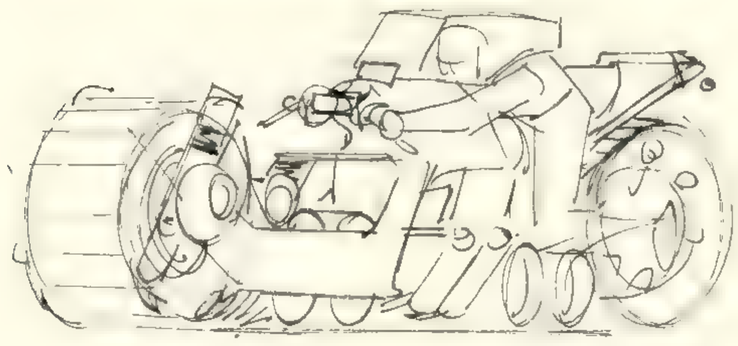

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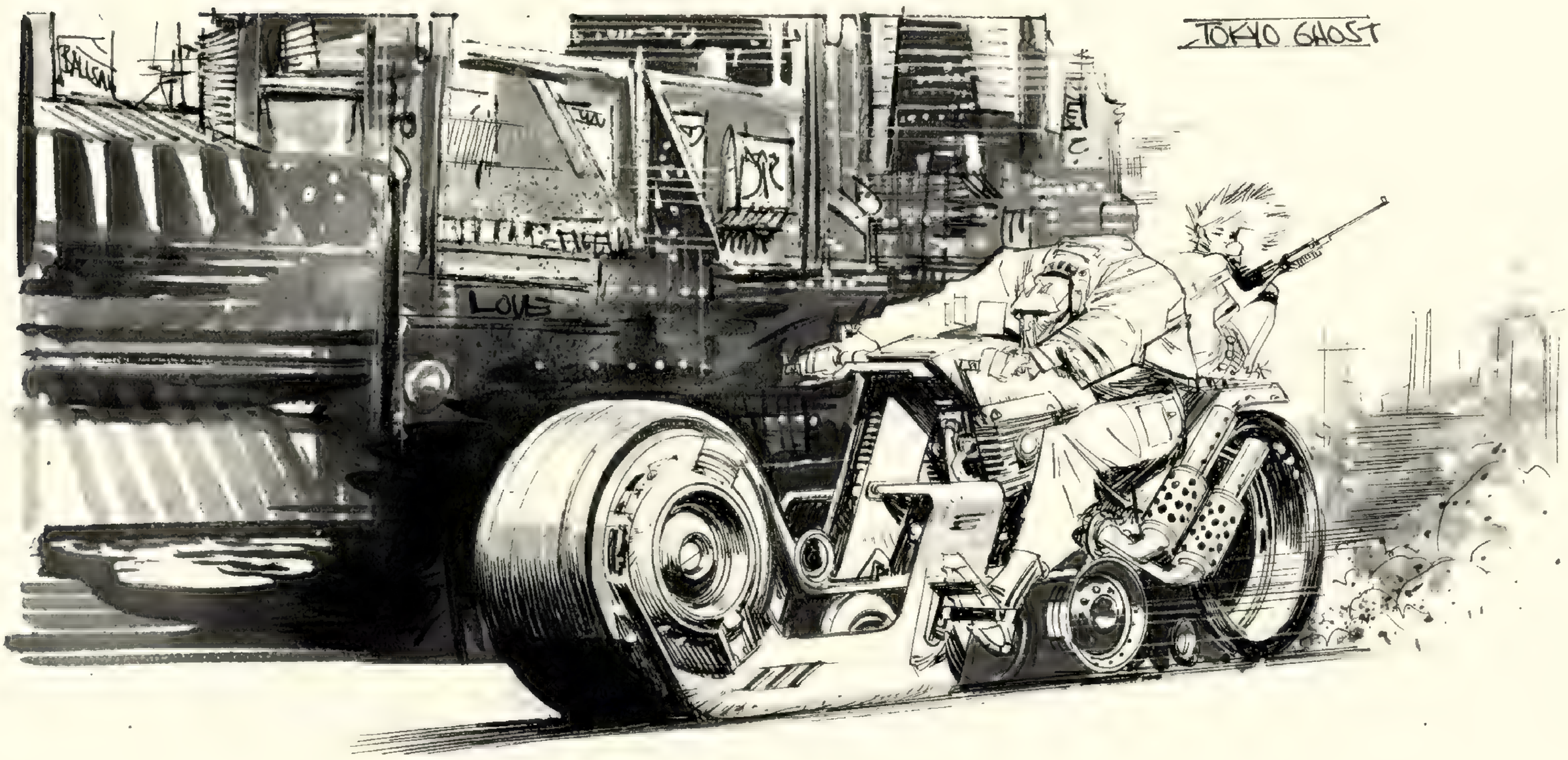

GHOST

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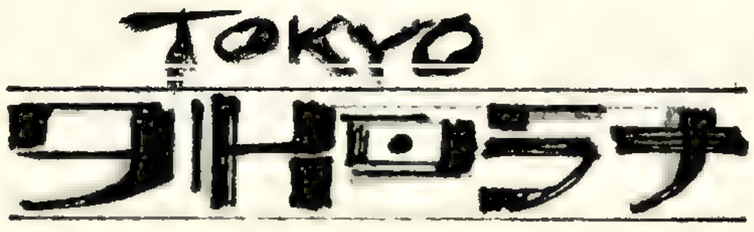


DIGGING THIS ONE:

Cover theme:
Each will be mostly black with a panoramic panel in the background that's reverse of foreground. If SCI FI world in BG, then Japan world in FG.

Panorama in background of New Los Angeles. Dent on bike?

Katana, bonzai and reflection

Future covers could play with Debbie, Dent's helmet, the bike, Japanese maple leaves, curves bridges, etc.

Other covers I'm less into.

#5 PAGES 4-5 COLOR PROCESS BY **MATT HOLLINGSWORTH**

**TOKYO GHOST**
Issue #1

**PAGE 1**

1 - CLOSE UP OF A NEEDLE OF RECORD PLAYER. The record is the TOY DOLLS 45 INCH "NELLIE THE ELEPHANT."

FLOATING: The Isle of Los Angeles, 2089.

DEBBIE (CAP)
A song about a happy elephant echoes through a fresh smear of gray mist on the canals.

Meat Herders playing **soft** music to lure **curious** children.

I **loved** this song as a kid.

2 - SAME SHOT - PULL OUT TO REVEAL AN ALLEYWAY IN NEW LOS ANGELES - The record player is not electronic but the old crank kind. It has been pieced together and connected to an old speaker. Around the record player are a FEW HOMELESS PEOPLE, BUT EVEN THE HOMELESS HAVE HOLOGRAM SCREEN AROUND THEIR FACES, WIRED IN. They can't afford gas masks, so they have cloth and wire wrapped around their mouths. They are filthy and dilapidated. They are sitting on a RICKETY OLD WOODEN SIDEWALK nuzzled next to an old fashioned 1950's television with a fire burning inside of it. Trash everywhere. To the edge of the rickety wooden sidewalk are THE PUTRID GREEN WATERS THAT FILLED THE STREETS OF LOS ANGELES LIKE THE CANALS IN VENICE. A homeless woman is drinking from a bottle of rubbing alcohol. Maybe someone is eating or cooking a rat.

DEBBIE (CAP)
You remember, Teddy?

DEBBIE (CAP)
Back when these low canals used to be our sanctuary and playground.

DEBBIE (CAP)
We used to swim all day.

DEBBIE (CAP)
Before the water was so toxic it'd melt your skin.

DEBBIE (CAP)
Even if it weren't--no one has time for swimming anymore.

DEBBIE (CAP)
Too busy avoiding the reality, all tucked away inside electronic opium dens.

RALPHIE (BG RUNNING)
>HUFF<

DEBBIE (CAP)

3 - PULL OUT WIDER - THE SCENE IS DISRUPTED BY A RALPH, a member of Davey Trauma's gang (they all wear 70s gangster nostalgia clothes?). He is sprinting through the camp, KICKING OVER THE RECORD PLAYER AND KNOCKING THE WOMAN INTO THE PUTRID GREEN WATER.

DEBBIE (CAP)
Leaving me here, the only tech-free observer to this illustrious group apathy.

RALPHIE
**OUTTA MY WAY, NUTBAG!**

VICTIM
GHA--!

SFX
SLOOP

4 - Ralph runs, full tilt.

DEBBIE (CAP)
And I only have one thing left.

RALPHIE
>HUFF<

DEBBIE (CAP)

One hope, one dream.

5 - Follow Ralph as he continues to run, full sprint, in panic nearing a corner.

DEBBIE (CAP)
One thing that's kept me alive.

DEBBIE (CAP)
And today's the day.

6 - Ralph rounds the corner as a bright light illuminates, causing him to squint his eyes from the brightness, he's terrified.

DEBBIE (CAP)
Today, after this one **last** job--

**PAGES 2-3**

1 - DOUBLE PAGE WIDE PANEL, ¾ PAGE TALL - POWER IMPACT REVEAL - LED DENT rocketing on his giant motorcycle GRABS RALPH by his neck like a bad puppy, picking him up off of the ground. DEBBIE is on the back of the bike. Use this angle to SHOW THE CITY as well, the canal full of pontoons and other old wooden boats. Gas masked people in the boats fishing. Beyond, in the BG, we see the towers high on the hill, where the rich live. Sell the color of this city here. Led, as ever, is watching a number of HOLOGRAM TELEVISION SCREENS.

SEAN NOTE: leave a white circle in the upper left-hand corner for the title and credits.

DEBBIE (CAP)
--I'm getting us out of here.

RALPHIE (BIG/IMPACT)
**FUCK YOU, DENT!**

DEBBIE
Heya, Ralphie.

DEBBIE (CAP)
Constable Led Dent--You still give 'em the fear, baby.

The Constables are the only thing between the sheep and the wolves.

Nano-juiced thugs protecting the Flak Corp's audience.

DEBBIE (CAP)
An' nothing's more valuable than **ratings**.

2 - LED ROCKETS DOWN THE RICKETY SIDEWALK ON THE SIDE OF THE CANAL, HE HOLDS RALPH LIKE A BAD BAG BY THE BACK OF HIS NECK. People in boats wearing gas masks look on in fear and surprise. RALPH IS PULLING OUT A KNIFE.

DEBBIE
Got two secs ta help us with a thing?

RALPH
I ain't helpin' you with **dick**!

Good news--nobody's dick needs any help.

DEBBIE (CAP)
Ralphie is small time.

It's his boss, Davey Trauma, we're after.

3 - Ralph swings around, stabbing Led in the back with the knife, sinking it in deep (we'll be using this knife later).

DEBBIE
Bad news--yours might if you use that knife.

SFX
SNK

DEBBIE (CAP)
Davey massacred thousands of people just last week.

No reason.

Just havin' fun.

RALPHIE
**LET ME DOWN!**

4 - Led is watching a number of television screens and doesn't even pay attention. Ralph is horrified, that was his one play, and it did fuck all. On the screens, we see social media feeds, blood spots, football, pornography, sitcoms and a sci-fi program. I'll add in little bits of sound bites form them later. Debbie is smiling at Ralph from the back, cute as a button.

DEBBIE (CAP)
Davey's fun cost Flak paid subscribers

And put him on top of our "most wanted" list.

DEBBIE
Cough it up, tickles. Where's Davey?

RALPH
Cock off, **slit**! I ain't--

**PAGE 4**

1 - Led blasts past an old brick building, HE HOLDS RALPH UP, GRINDING HIS FACE AGAINST THE SIDE OF THE BRICKS. Led doesn't care, he's watching his shows.

RALPH
YERAGHHH--!

SFX
SHHRRHSSDD

DEBBIE
Led's net-blank, addicted, totally unaware of what he's doin', sugarpops.

But mustache men givin' his gal the **ugly** talk during his favorite shows will get you his attention.

2 - Led pulls Ralph's face up to his, but Led doesn't even look at him, he continues to look forward watching television screens. Half of Ralph's face has been ground off, revealing bone and meat.

RUS NOTE: The voice that comes out of Ralphie's mouth is colored differently now, a balloon color stroke that we will use for all of Davey Trauma as he is now speaking through Ralphie.

RALPH (TECH FONT/NEW COLOR)
Is this the **best** I can expect from the **infamous** Led Dent an' Debbie Decay?

Torturing one of my **goons**?

**Pretty lame.**

3 - On Ralph, gore, half his face missing, he sputters out an answer through half a mouth.

DEBBIE
**Davey?!**

RALPH (TECH FONT/NEW COLOR)
You know I could **possess** yer boy-toy Led **whenever** I want.

RALPH (TECH FONT/NEW COLOR)
But I **ain't** no noob usin' **cheat codes!**

4 - WIDE - LED IS NOW ON A WOODEN BRIDGE, WATER ON EITHER SIDE OF HIM. Debbie, who is riding on the back, turns her head, so she doesn't have to see what Led does next.

RALPH (TECH FONT/NEW COLOR)
The Isles of Los Angeles is the **best** level I've played in this **game**!

RALPH (TECH FONT/NEW COLOR)
I'm going **expert hardcore** all the way to the **big boss!**

Sure, as **shit** ain't gonna be **PWNed** by a mid-tier, grim-dark, tech addict and his **slut**—

5 - LED LEANS TO THE SIDE, HOLDING RALPH IN THE PUTRID WATER AS HE ROCKETS ACROSS THE WOODEN BRIDGE. Led is still intently watching his television screens, distracted.

SFX
PLOOOSH

DEBBIE (CAP)
**Nothin'** hurts like watching the man you love **disappear**.

Leavin' me stuck out here in the real, holdin' him together.

But I stick it out.

**PAGE 5**

1 - Led rockets across, arriving on the other side of the bridge, emerging at a SHANTYTOWN. Homes made of found items and old aluminum siding piled up like a house of cards. Human misery and sorrow all around. A family gathers around a fire burning and a drum. Sickly and starving children. RALPH HAS BEEN MELTED DOWN FROM THE TOXIC WATER, HIS SKIN FLAILING, EXPOSING GOOEY FAT, BLOODY SINEW, MELTING MUSCLE. Give me a horror show here, classic EC Jack Davis.

DEBBIE (CAP)
Got my own issues with **neglect** and **abandonment**, see.

DEBBIE
**UGH**!

Don't you worry 'bout your man, Ralphie, hun.

RALPH
GARL RHUGNN--!

2 - Led tosses the pulpy remains of Ralph aside, towards the family by the dumpster fire.

DEBBIE
He's gonna make up for a life o' wrongdoing.

3 - Led tears away as the people descend on Ralph's body, tearing at it and eating it like ravenous wolves.

DEBBIE
Feedin' the poor's a **saintly** sort o' endin'.

4 - Led and Debbie rocket through Los Angeles traveling up a concrete on-ramp that spirals around some of the buildings that jut out of the water. Heading towards the mid-levels.

DEBBIE (CAP)
Davey Trauma.

A psychopathic narcissist and millennial nostalgist who got his mind trapped in the net.

As soon as we grab one o' his geeks--Davey shuts 'em down.

The world's a video game to Davey. He can control **anyone** with a nanopac in 'em.

Meanin' **everyone**.

Everyone except **me**. Straight edge perks.

DEBBIE (SPOKEN)
Used some o' my pop's old school sleuthin' to buy us a **lead**.

Constable **Gnaw Gristle** stopped reporting two weeks back, off the grid.

I'm bettin' Davey possessed 'im for muscle.

**Waddaya think?**

5 - CUT TO - LED'S POV - Watching the numerous holographic screens floating around his face. One of the screens is straight pornography. Screen #2 is a man in a strange super future suit with a used car salesman smile. Behind him an image of a robot with a red circle and a slash through it. Another screen is a sitcom, a skinny man wearing a jumpsuit in a kitchen talking to his wife who is making out with another man. Another screen is a football game. Another screen is an action movie. Each of these will have different colored electric balloons floating next to them. Debbie's dialog will be colored a shade lighter in the background, indicating that it is background noise to him.

RUS NOTE: For the TV BALLOONS, make them smaller than the other text, but just big enough to read.

DEBBIE (OP LEFT)
Led?

**LED!**

ELECTIC (TAILLESS)
--Yo! He gave them **all** the anal warts--

--tonight on Dr. TaintRashFinger--

ELECTIC (TAILLESS)
--trade in **any** family member--

ELECTIC (TAILLESS)
--once your dolphin's unconscious nature is free to take its—

6 - Debbie hits Led in the side of the head, playfully but it's a good rap.

DEBBIE
**HEY!** You listenin' to me?

SFX
TWONG

LED
*HRMM?*

DEBBIE
No more **muscles**.

No more **infinite web**.

You might have to actually **talk** to me.

4 - CUT TO - LED'S POV - The same shows playing in holograms floating all around his head, a twitter feed full of nonsense, misspellings and racial slurs. Behind the holograms we see Debbie getting furious, screaming at Led.

DEBBIE
**STUPID!**

Turn off the goddamn feeds--**time for work!**

ELECTIC (TAILLESS/SMALLER)
The singularity's over but
Digital mind pirates are still seeking your brain
to grow their artificial intellect--

ELECTIC (TAILLESS/SMALLER)
--Seventy new unread twamps--

5 - SAME EXACT SHOT AS ABOBVE - Debbie turns, frustrated, and starts marching towards the entrance of THE EASY WAY OUT DEATH RACES.

ELECTIC (TAILLESS/SMALLER)
--Can the Rondango Diddlers beat Chip
Changunga in the blood-ball final--

ELECTIC (TAILLESS/SMALLER)
--You've been mentioned in a vid on metube--

DEBBIE
Fuck it.

I'll go.

6 - SIDE ANGLE ON LED, LOST IN THE NUMEROUS SHOWS, websites, and pornography that he's watching. A smile on his face as he chuckles at some poorly delivered line from one of the sitcoms he is watching.

**PAGES 6-7**

1 - DOUBLE PAGE WIDE SHOT - FRONT ON LED AND DEBBIE AS THEY ROCKET UP TOWARDS THE ENTRANCE TO THE "EASY WAY OUT" DEATH RACES. Spotlights shoot across the sky; a giant neon sign shows a 1920's style race car with a skeleton driving it. The name of the arena is "EASY WAY OUT" which reads across the image, underneath it says "DEATH RACES." CROWDS PUSH TO GET IN, IT'S A BIG RACE NIGHT.

DEBBIE (SPOKEN/THEY ARE UNDER THE SIGN)
Source says Gristle's inside.

Dollars to doughnuts he'll know where we can find Davey.

DEBBIE (CAP)
The Death Races, **last** sport, played outside the net.

Only thing excitin' enough to get people off their couches.

**Depressing**.

I'm missin' ya somethin' crazy tonight, Teddy.

Need you here to laugh at it all with me.

You always made it endurable.

2 - Led parks his bike a bit away from the front entrance, which is buzzing with people coming in and out.

DEBBIE
Flack's cutting off your juice unless you bring
Davey in.

No more **juice**, no more **adrenaline**.

3 - Debbie hops off of the bike while Led continues to sit, watching television, TOTALLY distracted.

ELECTIC (TAILLESS/SMALLER)
Cold fusion repairman? Looks more like **hot** fusion to me, Won-Ton Jr! >HAHAHAHAHAH<

LED
*Heh.*

7 - DOUBLE PAGE WIDE - CUT TO - DEBBIE - AS SHE CUTS THROUGH THE CROWD WALKING TOWARDS THE ENTRANCE TO THE EASY WAY OUT DEATH RACES. Nearby on a billboard, we can see an ad for "THE NINE O'CLOCK PORN NEWS." A FEMALE AND MALE ANCHOR NAKED, grouping each other and smiling at us with a TELEVISION STATION EMBLEM HANGING OVER CHANNEL 18972. This is an opportunity for us to get a look at the crowd, part Road Warrior, part new wave, part Moebius future sci-fi, part punk rock, part S&M, and most everyone wears gas masks or something around their face. Corncob pipes are the new fashion trend, and many people smoke out of corn cob pipes of various shapes. Old time curly mustaches are also quite popular.

DEBBIE (CAP)
You'd **hate** to see what he's become, Teddy.

Self-involved.

Apathetic.

Addicted to the power.

Distracted from the sewer around us with a constant stream of bullshit.

He's so full of juice, so many tiny goddamn robots releasing so many fuckin' chemicals altering every part of him...

**PAGE 8-9**

1 - DOUBLE PAGE WIDE - DEBBIE ENTERS, EST. THE LARGE RACEWAY ARENA. It's all indoor and shaped something like a stadium. Crowed with onlookers in the bleachers watching as a handful of remaining racers speed across the winding raceway that loops, zigs, and zags around the center of the arena. Numerous plumes of black smoke rise from the racers who have already perished. Burning race cars. Mangled bodies hang off of barbed wire. A giant monitor beyond the track shows a close up of two cars racing one another as buzz saws emerge from the track itself.

DEBBIE (CAP)
...doesn't even resemble the boy I fell in love with.

VENDOR MAN
**Check-out pills, five bucks!**

DEBBIE (CAP)
This isn't about Led.

This about stopping Davey and his nerds from another slaughter spree.

Images of the last one--can't shake it--so many bodies.

BIKINI GIRL
I'll **slap** it, I'll **dap** it, I'll treat you like a **friend**!

DEBBIE (CAP)
Like bored teenagers playing video games.

Only with no distinction between **reality** and the **virtual** world.

2 - Debbie walks through the crowd looking around for her target. Everyone's eyes are on the race; everyone is high and screaming. Use this to sell the color of the middle class, stuff we talked about.

DEBBIE (CAP)
Every kill is just a **stat**.

And like a video game, reality has become what was **always** inside us.

FAT MAN
Buzzsaw that kangler, fast fernando!

HILLBILLY
**KILLS HIM!**

3 - CUT TO - THE DEATH RACE - As the two lead cars zip down the winding tack that hangs in the middle of the air with no guardrail, blood and bodies scattered across it. One of the drivers is losing control as a flamethrower is dousing him in flames, either from another driver or from a trap emerging from the track itself.

DEBBIE (CAP)
A thirst for violence and competition.

Romanticizing murder and warfare.

4 - The screaming driver loses control of the racecar as he runs off the track, hurling towards a bleacher filled with terrified looking fans.

DEBBIE (CAP)
**Everything** is adversarial.

TAILLESS 1
--holy **fuck**!

TAILLESS 2
Outta my way--

TAILLESS 3
My chonies!

5 - CUT BACK TO DEBBIE as the approaches the bar to see a half-cyborg man who also has a number of hologram screens floating around his face. He would rather be somewhere else. In the background we see the car explode. Everyone around her cheers.

DEBBIE
Hey, Jim-Jam. Seen any Constables tonight?

JIM
Sure have.

Price?

DEBBIE
Flak's new nanojuice replicates **true love**.

6 - Debbie pulls out a small bottle of water, like one of those tiny Arrowhead waters at panels and conventions. It's half full of clean, clear water.

DEBBIE
You look like you could use some.

**PAGE 10**

1 - CUT TO - DEBBIE - Walking through the crowd towards a pair of Double doors guarded by a crazy looking security guard.

DEBBIE
**Bingus**! The **most** important man in the room.

What's your poison, hun?

DOORMAN
Got any self-esteem?

2 - Debbie smiles at the security guard as he opens the doors for her.

DEBBIE
Six grams.

DOORMAN
He's in the back.

3 - IMPACT - The security guard opens the doors and Debbie walks into the nightclub inside. The club is small and is designed to look like a 1970's nightclub. Everyone inside is dressed to look like they are from the 70's as well. Every stereotype you can imagine.

DOORMAN
Stay out of trouble, Debbie.

DEBBIE (CAP)
Trouble.

Trouble is all there is in **this** place.

The rooms back here have it **all**.

Body pirating, clone incest, snuff prostitutes, Hong Kong suicide slots, clown torture...

4 - Debbie is trying to keep a low profile as she walks around, trying to find the partygoers. More color, more fun stuff to show off this world.

DEBBIE (CAP)
**Anything** for a price, to the handful who can afford it.

Celebrity programmers, Flak executives, Water Barons, Corn Commodores, death racers on a final bender...

All of 'em lookin' for an **artificial** thrill with **real** flesh.

5 - The look on her face turns to shock as SHE IDENTIFIES DAVEY TRAUMA AND HIS GANG SITTING IN A BOOTH, drinking, doing drugs with half naked girls draped all over them. One of Davy's gang is a big scary looking monster of a man, we assume this is Davy, but he's really the skinny oddball next to the giant man.

DEBBIE (CAP)
Bingus comes through, Constable Gristle sitting with--

Oh.

**Holy shit**--

**PAGE 11**

1 - Debbie pulls herself to the side of a wall, pressing two fingers to her forehead as she activates a communication chip. A small holo screen of Led on it in front of her activates.

DEBBIE
Led? He's **here.**

Davey Trauma is here.

I think he saw me--

2 - CUT TO - LED DENT - Still outside where we saw him last, frozen, watching the numerous screens. Only now one of the screens has Debbie on it.

DEBBIE (ELECTRIC)
Led, **I NEED YOU!**

You **STUPID** asshole--**WAKE UP!**

Back of the club--the nostalgia room.

3 - CUT BACK TO DEBBIE - A SHADOWY FIGURE ROUNDING THE CORNER, LOOKING AT HER. Debbie is looking up with fear on her face.

DEBBIE
He's got his **whole gang** here Led, I need you before--

DAVEY (OP RIGHT)
Before **what**?

4 - REVERSE CAMERA BEHIND DEBBIE, LOOKING UP AT DAVEY TRAUMA. He is the skinny oddball nerd. He is calm, crazy, creepy and leery.

DAVEY
Before I add minor sidekick **Debbie Decay to** my trophies?

DEBBIE
Balls.

5 - Debbie doesn't waste a second, she knows she is in terrible danger. SHE BOLTS, running in the other direction. SHE IS TERRIFIED. Davey is touching his forhead, controlling his gang.

HENCHMAN(DAVEY FONT)
--always keeps him on the right path--**OOF**!

SFX
KWUD

4 - Debbie runs on the wall parkour style over Davey trauma who stands smiling at her. Maybe he plays with an old NES control pad?

DAVEY
Too loyal, too trusting--

SFX (BULLET HITTING BY HER FEET)
PNG SNK

--Crippled by an **overpowering** need to care for others!

5 - CUT TO - DEATH RACE STADIUM - As Debbie explodes out of the nightclub into the crowded auditorium full of cheering fans.

GRISTLE (DAVEY FONT)
All those years nursing your dishonorably discharged dad the dud detective!

ANNOUNCER (ELECTRIC/DAVEY FONT)
Poor, Debbie **Decay** had watch both her folks wither **away**!

DEBBIE
**EVERYONE GET DOWN!**

MAN SCREAMING
We'll send your widow a canned squid, ya blotch!

DAVEY
HEE-RAW!

Shit's just gone **hella** real!

I'll make it fair, give you a few seconds...

and...

6 - DAVY POV SHOT - WE SEE THE WORLD THE WAY HE SEES THE WORLD: A VIDEO GAME. DEBBIE IS A SUPER NINTENDO VERSION OF HERSLEF RUNNING AWAY FROM HIM. We see stats like three hearts for health, a bar for ammo, and maybe a little NES style points thing in the other corner.

**PAGE 12**

1 - Debbie looks up to see a number of the Traumatics, Davey's gang, closing off her exit. They are all holding knives and guns. The big monster man from the table leading them, Debbie is in danger.

DAVEY
I read **all** about you, Debbie!

DAVEY
Your psych evaluation's a **peach**!

Just a good cop following the rules of a bad system, right?

2 - Debbie flips through the air as the gangster shoots with his automatic gun killing a dozen partygoers.

SFX
BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA

GRISTLE (DAVEY FONT)
Led Dent's personal Jiminy Cricket--

3 - DEBBIE lands on the top of one of THE BIG MONSTER MAN GANGSTER, kicking him in the face and SMASHING HER HEEL INTO HIS FACE, sinking it into his skull.

**PAGE 13**

1 - Suddenly a machinegun tears into the area around Debbie, blowing the head open of a man in the foreground. Dozens people being shot, Debbie ducking down.

SFX
SNK SHK PLK

VICTIME 1
GHA--

DEBBIE
**TAKE COVER!**

SFX
SHK

VICTIME 2
HUKK--!

2 - ANGLE ON Davey and his gang marching towards us. They aren't running, it isn't their style. Davey's arms are orchestrating it all

DAVEY
Therapist says you're **Codependent** with a capital "**C**," Debs!

GRISTLE (DAVEY FONT)
Supporting the **weakness** of others to feel **needed**!

3 - CUT TO - DAVY POV - WE SEE THE VIDEO GAME VERSION OF HIS REALITY - DEBBIE JUMPS FROM ONE LEVEL OF THE AUDITORIUM TO THE OTHER. Numerous people are being shot around her, bullets narrowly missing her.

DAVEY
But what's your alternative, **right**?

Let big Led **disappear** like dear ol' Dad did?

4 - Davey and his gang stand on the ledge of the tier Debbie just jumped off of, shooting down at her, killing numerous people. On the giant screen behind them, we can see the death race.

SFX
BLAMM BLAMM BLAMM

ANNOUNCER (ELECTRIC/DAVEY FONT)
**Oh!** But the plot **thickens**!

Says here Debbie promised herself she'd **suicide out** if it ever got this bad.

But she's **too** afraid of the monster they'd turn Deranged Dent into!

5 - CUT TO - DAVY POV - WE SEE THE VIDEO GAME VERSION OF HIS REALITY - ANGLE BEHIND Davey who has Debbie in the sights of his gun and is ready to shoot her.

DAVEY (OP)
Isn't that the **saddest** thing you've ever heard, lads?

6 - Davey and his gang turn around, THEY ARE BATHED IN BRIGHT LIGHT.

DAVEY
Wakin' up every day just to help some net-head doesn't even know you're alive--

**PAGE 14**

1 - IMPACT - LED DENT PLOWS THROUGH A NUMBER OF DAVEY'S GANG, turning them to mists of red and streaks of strawberry jam. Davey manages to jump, avoiding the motorcycle. Think Darrow.

DAVEY
Well--look **who's** here in the nick of time!

Maybe he **does** care, Debbie.

GRISTLE
UNGHUGH--!

2 - Led has crashed through the railing and is hurling down towards one of the death racetracks, Davey mid air falling in the same direction. The car race is still going on, flames and buzz saws and submachine guns blowing up and killing the racers. People panic and scatter, Debbie rushing through them to get away.

DAVEY
This chivalrous shit hits me right in the feels, bro.

Still, you just squished my Constable after weeks of leveling him up.

3 - Led behind Davey.

DAVEY
Guess I'm gonna need a new one.

But **how** will I get another constable's attention?

4 - Led lands on the track, bodies raining down from Davey's gang that he smashed into and Davey himself who is unharmed.

DAVEY
Guess I'm gonna have to go on **A MURDER SPREE!**

**PAGE 15**

1 - Davey lands inside one of the speeding racecars.

DAVEY
Patient zero!

SFX
BOING!

2 - DAVEY touches his forehead, controlling the car's tech, CAUSING THE DRIVER TO BE EJECTED OUT ON HIS SEAT FROM A GIANT SPRING.

DAVEY
Yoo-hoo!

Here I am, Macho Malone!

Take your shot--

3 - We see Led speeding on his motorcycle towards Davey, Led's gun out pointing it at Davey in the car in front of him. Davey is turned around looking at Led, smiling like a creep, touching his forehead, controlling the stadium. Before Led can take the shot, A GIANT BUZZ SAW EMERGES FROM THE TRACK RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM!

DAVEY
--Before something **cuts** your time short.

4 - Led jerks the wheel on his motorcycle, hard, sending him hurling off the track.

5 - ANGLE BEHIND Davey, finger to his temple, racing towards a crowded bleacher full of shocked and gawking onlookers. Davey touches his forehead as a missile launcher pops up out of his crazy backpack of gadgets, the missile launcher is pointed at the bleachers.

DAVEY TRAUMA
God, I'm **such** a boss.

Now for an **equally** impressive exit—

6 - narrow page-wide horizontal sliver beat panel - missile launcher releasing a missile.

DAVEY (CAP)
"--With hella body count."

SFX
SHWOOSHH

**PAGE 16**

1 - IMPACT - the missile hits the bleachers, killing hundreds of people and making an explosion big enough to make a hole in the side of the stadium.

2 - EXT. AUDITORIUM - Davey emerges out of a smoldering fiery hole he created flying using a helicopter emerging from his backpack of gadgets. There are numerous power lines strewn all about and a canal full of misty, murky green toxic water below. Burning bodies and body parts raining down all around him.

DAVEY
Yolo, bitches!

You slags see that shit?

3 - Davey lands by his motorcycle gang, the rest of his Traumatics, parked on a rickety sidewalk to the side of the canal. Tough looking bikers, mean, all wearing 70s gear. The four members of his gang, sitting around, smoking and looking at him in shock.

TRAUMATIC MEMBER
That was **KILLER**, boss!

DAVEY
Well, thank you, Paulie Q, you cunty bootlicker.

BIKER 2
What's the plan?

4 - a razor scooter with rockets on the side unfolds/transforms/pops out of the backpack of gadgets.

DAVEY
Traumatics--
Traumatics--

SFX
CHKK
WHRLL
CLIKK

5 - DAVEY AND HIS GANG ROCKET AWAY! Get your motor runnin'--head out on a scooter! Davey's scooter is fast as shit, rockets burning, the bikers in formation around him, his guards.

DAVEY
Let's **traumatize**.

RICK REMENDER is the writer/co-creator of comics such as *LOW*, *Fear Agent*, *Deadly Class*, *Tokyo Ghost*, and *Black Science*. For Marvel he has written titles such as *Uncanny Avengers*, *Captain America*, *Uncanny X-Force*, and *Venom*.

He's written video games such as *Bulletstorm* and *Dead Space*, and worked on films such as *The Iron Giant*, *Anastasia*, and *Titan A.E.*

He and his tea-sipping wife, Danni, currently reside in Los Angeles raising two beautiful mischief monkeys.

SEAN MURPHY is the *New York Times* bestselling writer/artist of *Punk Rock Jesus*. He's also worked on such titles as *Batman*, *Hellblazer*, *The Wake*, and *American Vampire* with DC Comics. Sean lives in Maine with his wife and two dogs. When he's not drawing, he's usually found on his motorcycle (or underneath it, depending on whether or not he can get it started).

MATT HOLLINGSWORTH has been an avid homebrewer of beer since 1997 and a beer judge since 1999. He's won a total of 18 medals, 13 of them gold medals, in competitions in New Jersey, Texas, Washington, Oregon, and London. He's judged competitions in Oregon, Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia, and Bulgaria.

In between beers, he's been coloring comics since 1991, including *Preacher*, *Daredevil*, *Hawkeye*, *The Wake*, *Hellboy*, *Chrononauts*, *Wytches*, and *We Stand on Guard*. Born in California, he lives in Croatia with his lovely wife, Branka, and his awesome son, Liam.

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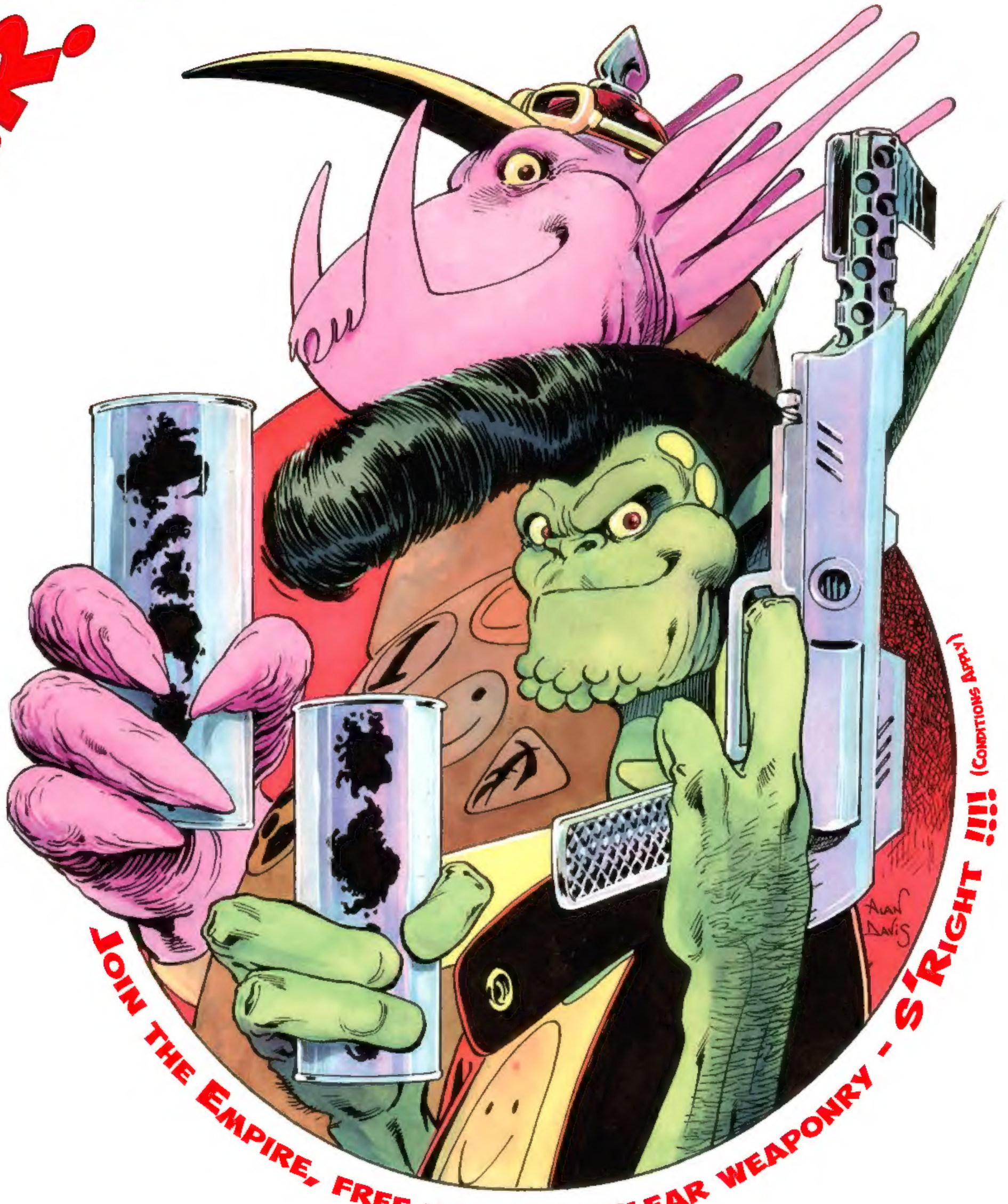


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